Creator of *Venus vs. Virus* and *Haridama: Magic Cram School*

Amefurashi

THE RRIN GODDESS

1

ATSUSHI SUZUMI

AMEFURASHI

The Rain Goddess

1

Atsushi Suzumi

Translated and adapted by
Elina Ishikawa

Lettered by
North Market Street Graphics

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KODANSHA
COMICS

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Contents

A Note from the Author iv

Amefurashi 1 1

About the Creator 220

Translation Notes 221

Atsushi Suzumi

Nice to meet you. I'm Suzumi. I find peace in a cup of café au lait and my cat, Othello, when I'm buried in work like a tomb in sand.

Atsushi Suzumi

Amefurashi 1

The Rain Goddess

Contents

Drop 1 A Bargain and Dolls 3

Drop 2 Partly Rain, Partly Reverse Rain 54

Drop 3 A Big Wave! 86

Drop 4 Candy ★ Storm 116

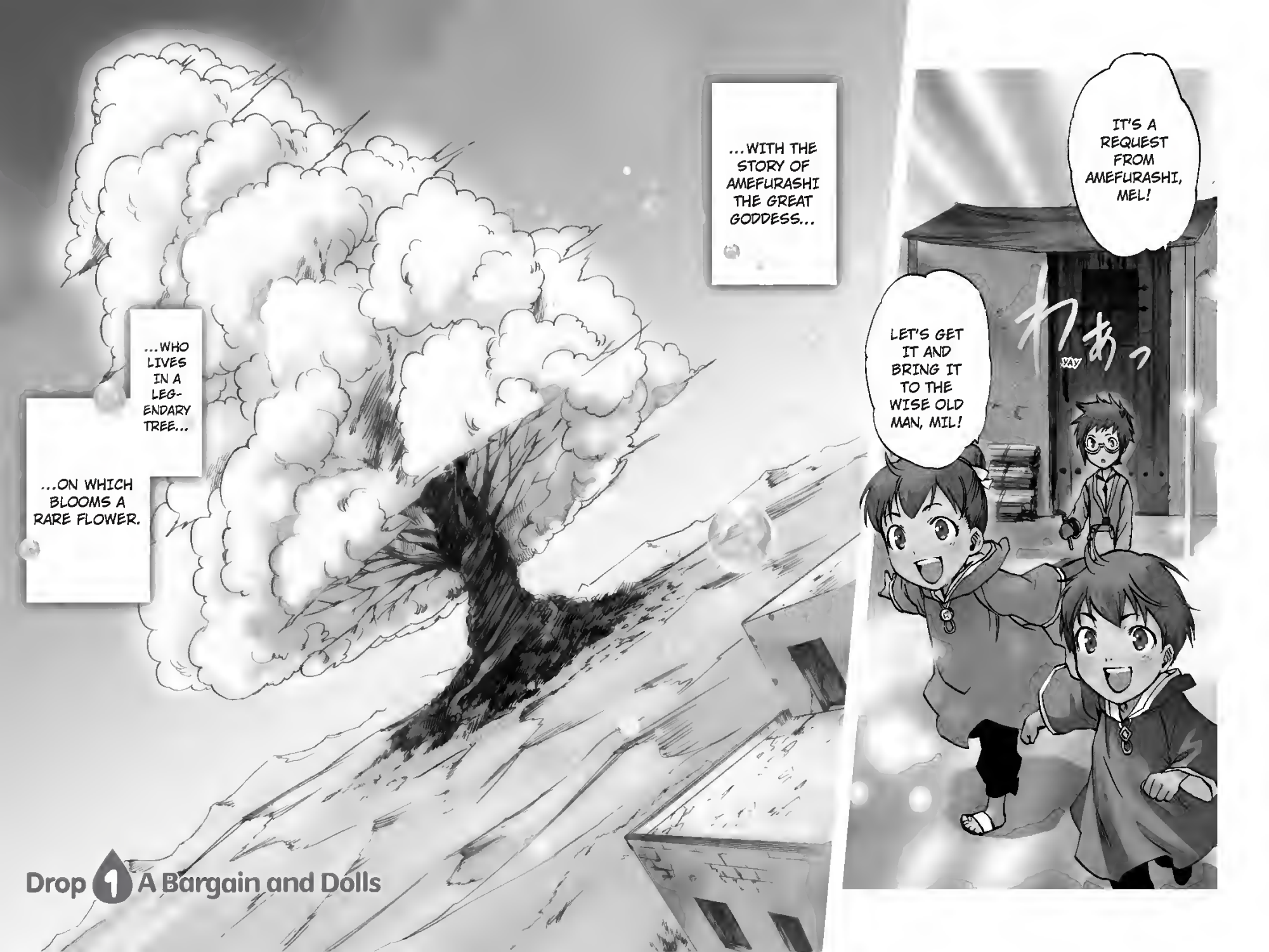
Drop 5 Two Shadows 152

Drop 6 The Lost Girl 185

LET ME TELL YOU MY FAVORITE LEGEND...
...ABOUT A LAND NESTLED IN THE SAND.

IT'S THE STORY OF A RARE FLOWER THAT BLOOMS...
...ON A NIMBUS TREE THAT WATERS THIS ARID LAND.
AH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, GIMMY?

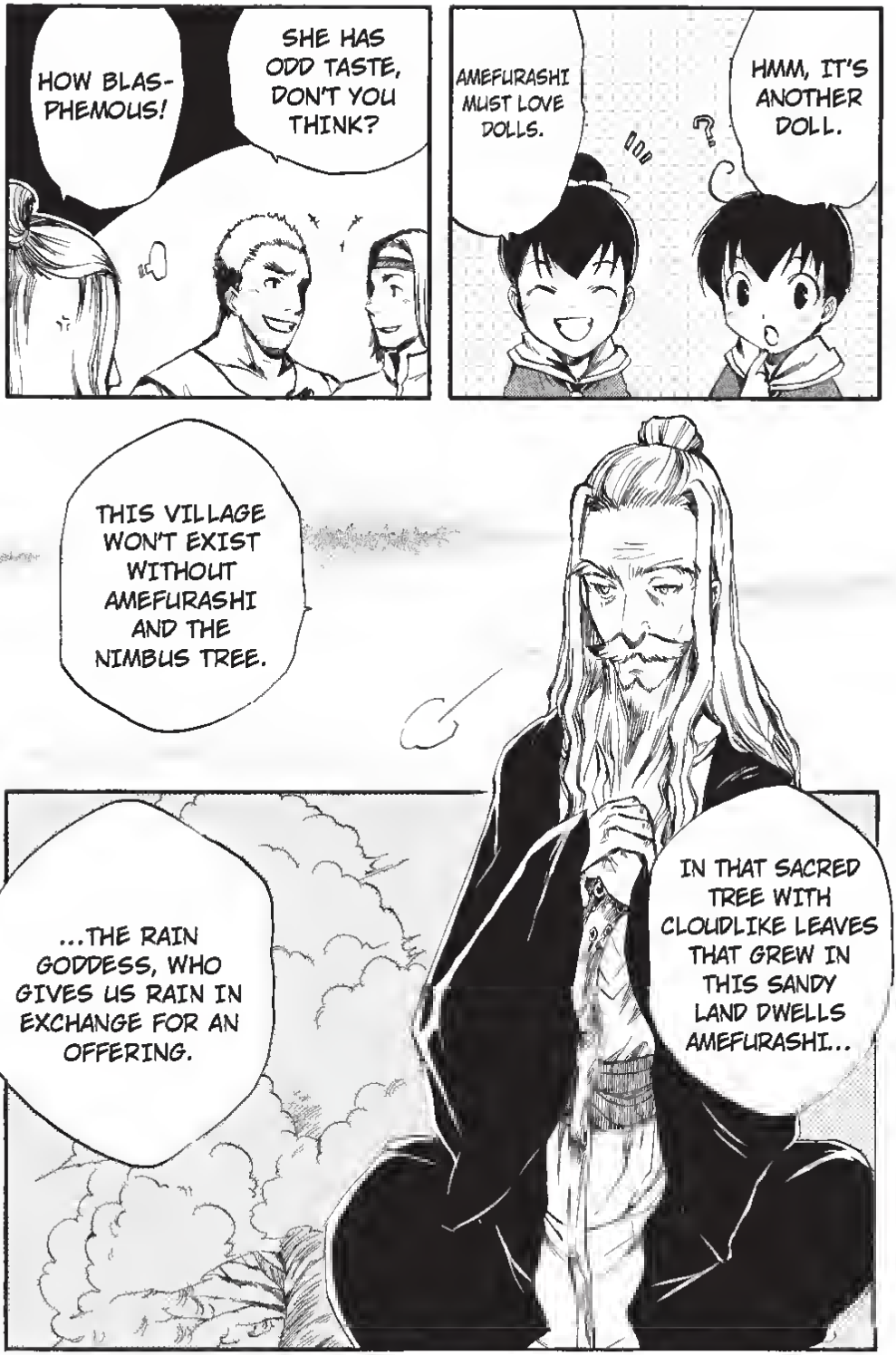
AND SO THE LEGEND BEGINS...
.....
SEE THAT?
WOW!


...WITH THE STORY OF AMEFURASHI THE GREAT GODDESS...
...WHO LIVES IN A LEG-ENDARY TREE...
...ON WHICH BLOOMS A RARE FLOWER.
IT'S A REQUEST FROM AMEFURASHI, MEL!
LET'S GET IT AND BRING IT TO THE WISE OLD MAN, MIL!
わあっ
YAY

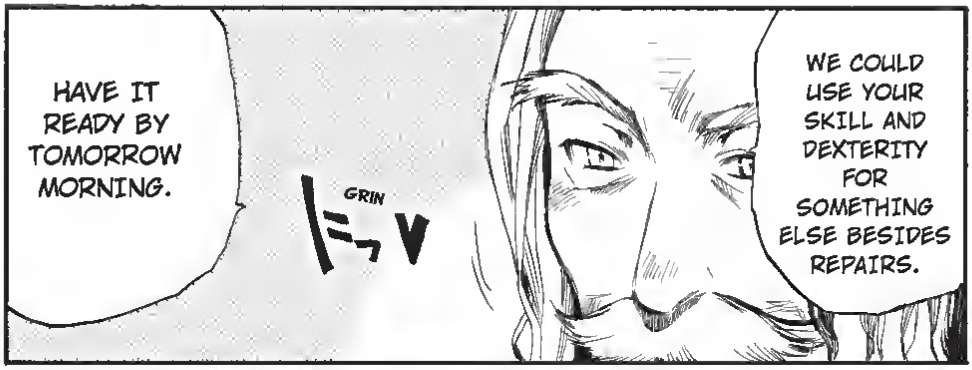
Drop 1 A Bargain and Dolls

Amefurashi

HURRY UP AND OPEN IT, WISE OLD MAN!
HURRY! HURRY!
HERE IT GOES.
SHFF
HMM...
AHEM.
POOF
WOW!
PUFF


HOW BLAS-PHEMOUS!
SHE HAS ODD TASTE, DON'T YOU THINK?
AMEFURASHI MUST LOVE DOLLS.
HMM, IT'S ANOTHER DOLL.
THIS VILLAGE WON'T EXIST WITHOUT AMEFURASHI AND THE NIMBUS TREE.
IN THAT SACRED TREE WITH CLOUDLIKE LEAVES THAT GREW IN THIS SANDY LAND DWELLS AMEFURASHI...
...THE RAIN GODDESS, WHO GIVES US RAIN IN EXCHANGE FOR AN OFFERING.

?
GULP
WELL...
...MUCH MORE.
HER MIGHTY POWERS BESTOW MORE THAN JUST RAIN...
THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO CREATE A DOLL.
WHO, ME?
NEAT!
WOW!
?
YES?
GIMMY.

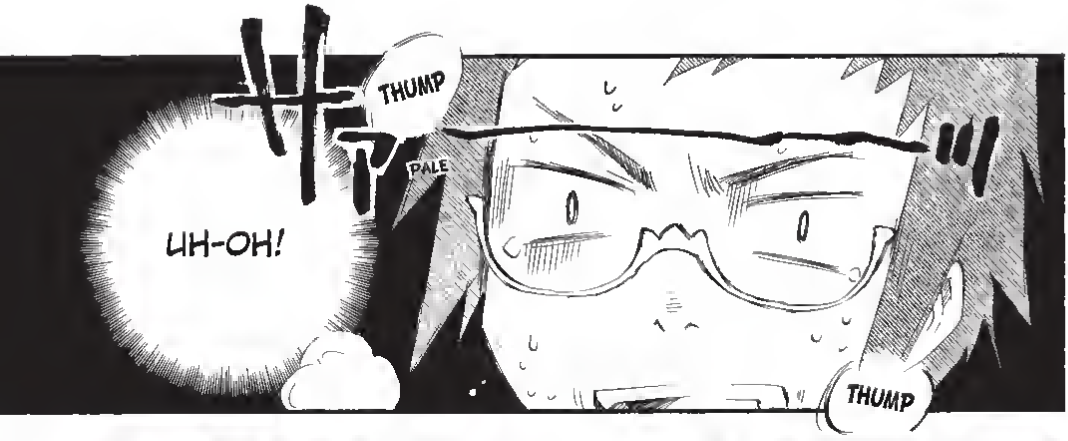

HAVE IT READY BY TOMORROW MORNING.
GRIN
WE COULD USE YOUR SKILL AND DEXTERITY FOR SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES REPAIRS.

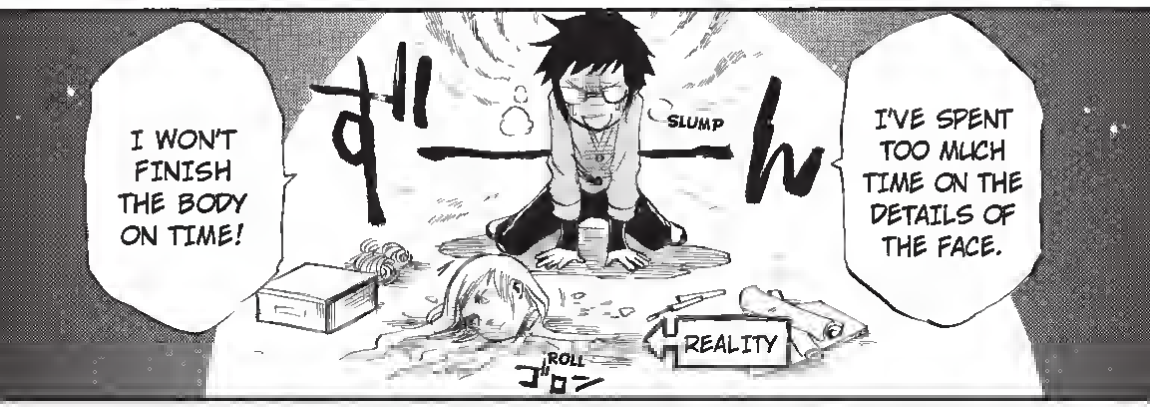
...SUCH AN IMPORTANT TASK UP TO ME?
YOU'RE LEAVING...
YOU...

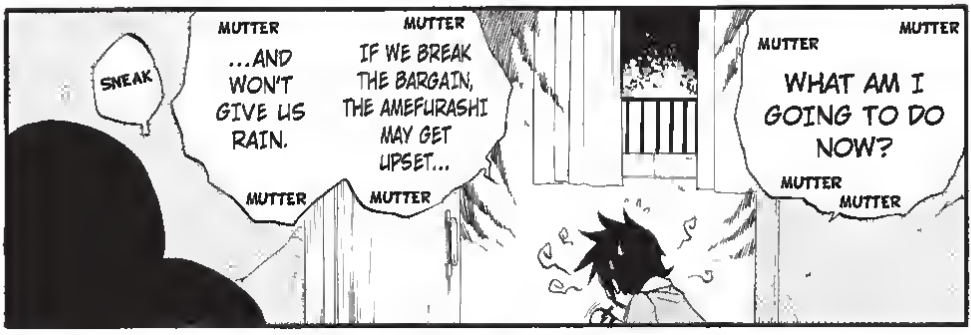
YO!
GIMMY!
BAM

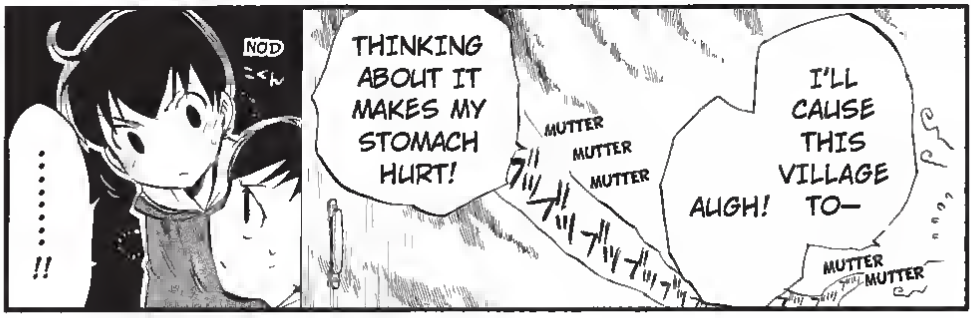
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HOME.
集中
CONCENTRATE
SCRAPE SCRAPE SCRAPE SCRAPE
YEAH, BUT BOY IS THIS VILLAGE PEACEFUL.
WHAT A BOTHER!
BWA HA
I HEAR YOU'RE MAKING A DOLL NOW.
HA HA
HAHA HA HA
WA HA HA
DARYL, THEIR GUARDIAN
NAH, I HAVEN'T SEEN IT.
IT IS A RARE FLOWER.
ANY CHANCE YOU SAW ITS FLOWER?
!!
HUH?
PLOP
CREAK
I'VE SEEN SEVERAL NIMBUS TREES ON MY JOURNEY, BUT OURS HAS THE BEST FOLIAGE.

?
I GUESS THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
SIGH
.....
I GUESS YOU HAVE TO ASK AMEFURASHI WHERE IT'D BLOOM AND WHEN.
HAR, HAR, HAR.
MEL AND MIL, YOU SHOULD GET TO BED, TOO.
OKAY.
OH, OKAY.
YAWN
I'M TURNING IN NOW.
IT'S...
...GETTING LIGHT.

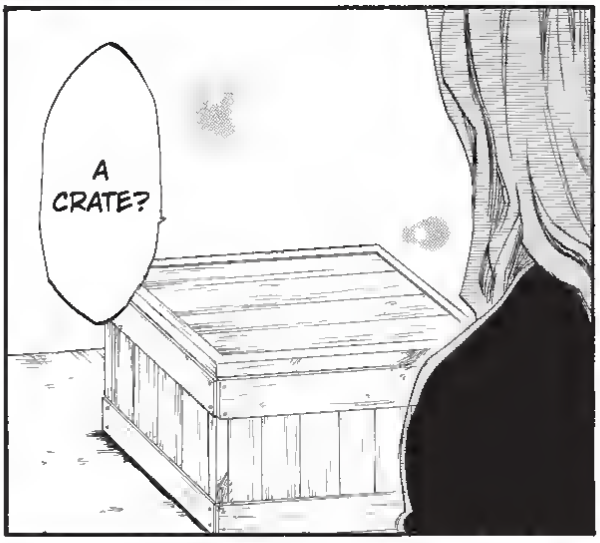

THUMP
PALE
UH-OH!
THUMP

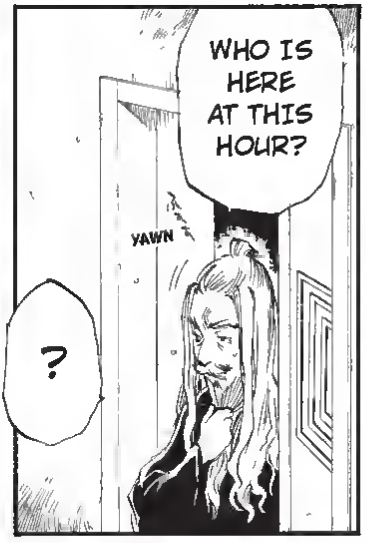

I WON'T FINISH THE BODY ON TIME!
SLUMP
I'VE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME ON THE DETAILS OF THE FACE.
REALITY
ROLL

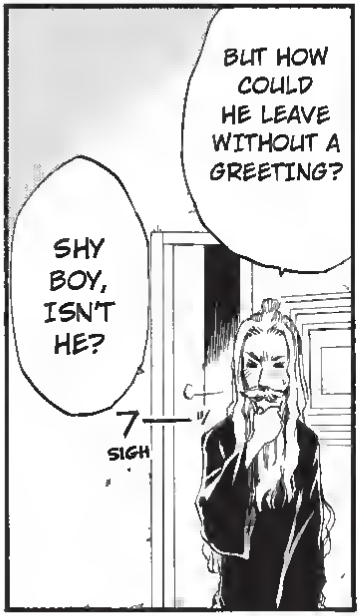

SNEAK
MUTTER
...AND WON'T GIVE US RAIN.
MUTTER
MUTTER
IF WE BREAK THE BARGAIN, THE AMEFURASHI MAY GET UPSET...
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?
MUTTER
MUTTER


NOD
.....!!
THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY STOMACH HURT!
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
AUGH!
I'LL CAUSE THIS VILLAGE TO—
MUTTER
MUTTER

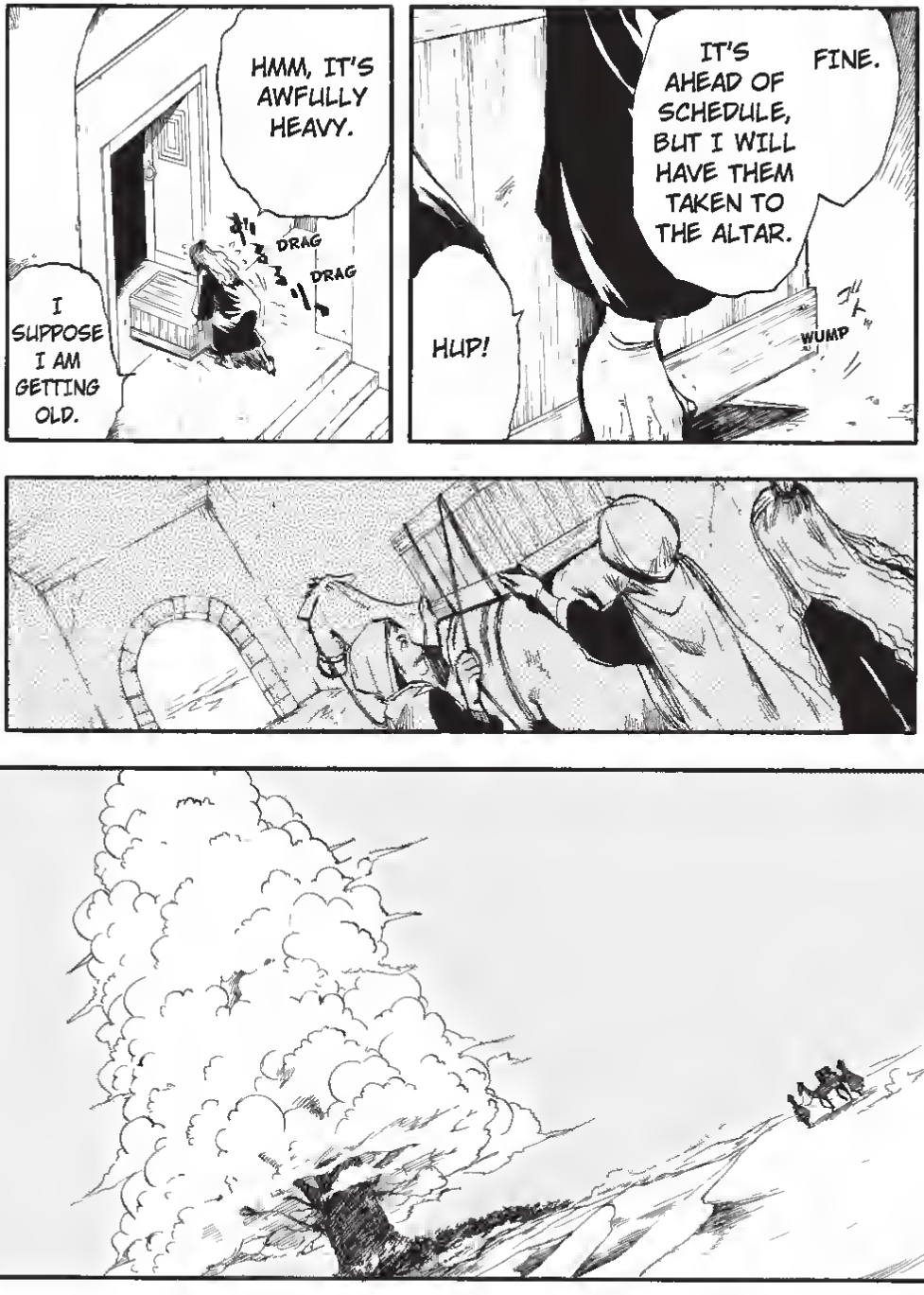
HM?
KNOCK
KNOCK
RATTLE
RATTLE


A CRATE?


WHO IS HERE AT THIS HOUR?
YAWN
?


BUT HOW COULD HE LEAVE WITHOUT A GREETING?
SHY BOY, ISN'T HE?
SIGH

HO!
THIS IS MAGNIF-ICENT!
GIMMY HAS MADE TWO DOLLS OVERNIGHT!


HMM, IT'S AWFULLY HEAVY.
DRAG
DRAG
I SUPPOSE I AM GETTING OLD.
IT'S FINE. AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, BUT I WILL HAVE THEM TAKEN TO THE ALTAR.
HUP!
WUMP

WE'LL PLACE IT HERE.
GOOD.
PLEASE GIVE US THE BLESSED RAIN.
.....
OH GREAT AMEFURASHI...
OKAY, LET'S GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE.
PHEW!
WHAT A RELIEF!
SCUFF

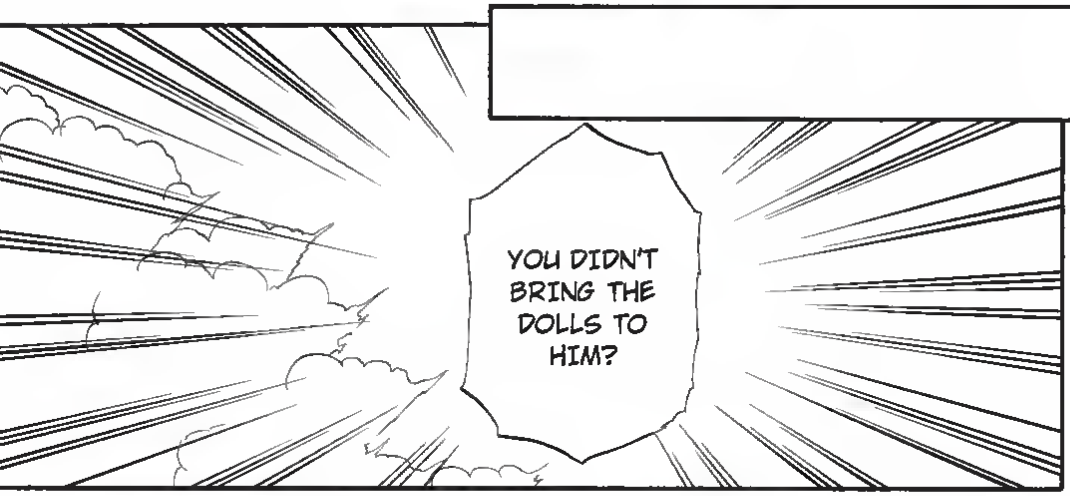
IS IT... SAFE NOW?
.....
CLACK
.....
SCUFF
SCUFF
SCUFF
WHEW!
BAM
YES!
MISSION ACCOM-PLISHED!
GRIN
ME, NEITHER.
UGH
I DON'T FEEL WELL.
BUT...
YUCK

THIS WILL KEEP GIMMY OUT OF TROUBLE.
YES.
LET'S GET BACK TO THE VILLAGE BEFORE—
GWARRRRR
!!!
HOP
FLINCH
UUURP, UGKH...
UGKH...
HOWL
SQUAWK
GWARRR
WHAT...
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?
I-IT MUST BE A BIRD.

I'M NOT AFRAID, I'M NOT AFRAID.
I'M, I'M NOT AFRAID!
I'M NOT—
TEARY
EEP!
FLINCH
RUSTLE RUSTLE
THEY LOOK PRETTY REALISTIC.
HMMM.
DIZZY
RUSTLE
.....?

TIME'S UP.
DOOM
どろ～～～ん…
...IT ENDED UP LOOKING LIKE SOMEONE HAD SLAPPED THE PIECES TOGETHER!
WHEN I RUSHED TO FINISH IT...
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
HE SAID YOU DID A GREAT JOB ON THE DOLLS.
BWA HA HA HA
THE WISE OLD MAN WAS COMPLIMENTING YOU.
BA-M
あん
BUT I CAN'T BRING NOTHING, EITHER.
WILL I GET PUNISHED IF I PUT THIS ON THE ALTAR?
TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE
NICE GOING, GIMMY!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, GIMMY?
FROZEN
WHAT'S WITH THAT VOODOO-TYPE DOLL?
?
.....


YOU DIDN'T BRING THE DOLLS TO HIM?

THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO SEE THE WISE OLD MAN?
IT'S OKAY, DARYL.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT WENT WRONG...
FLOP
...BUT I NEED TO GET THIS ON THE ALTAR IN TIME.

I...
...DON'T WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR ANYONE.
HEY.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM AROUND.
TMP TMP TMP
I'M ON MY WAY! LOOK AFTER MEL AND MIL FOR ME.
OKAY.
DASH
SCUFF
TMP
OKAY.
GLARE

HERE I GO!
HH
VOOSH
H
THE WISE OLD MAN SAID I'D GET PUNISHED IF I APPROACH IT RASHLY.
ドキン
THUMP
THE NIMBUS TREE IS HOLY GROUND.
ドキン
THUMP
MUTTER
O GREAT AMEFURASHI...
MUTTER
MUTTER
...PLEASE HAVE MERCY ON ME.
MUTTER
THUMP
ドキン

HE IS GETTING CLOSER!
PUFF
PUFF
!
THUMP
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
THUMP
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO MAKE THE BARGAIN.
THE CLOUD LEAVES STARTED MOVING.
WHOOSH
I'VE GOT TO HURRY!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH

SQUAWK
TWEET TWEET
HAA
WHAT A FOREST.
IT'S A WORLD APART FROM MY VILLAGE.
HAA
IT'S THE ALTAR.
FOUND IT!
!
I HAVE TO GET THIS DOLL—
!?

PLOP
PLIP
!
!?
THIS CRATE...
IS THIS MEL AND MIL'S TOY BOX?
THE RAIN OF BARGAIN?
SHHH
BUT I HAVE THE DOLL HERE. WHY?
?!
FLAP
THIS IS...
...MEL'S RIBBON!
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
GASP

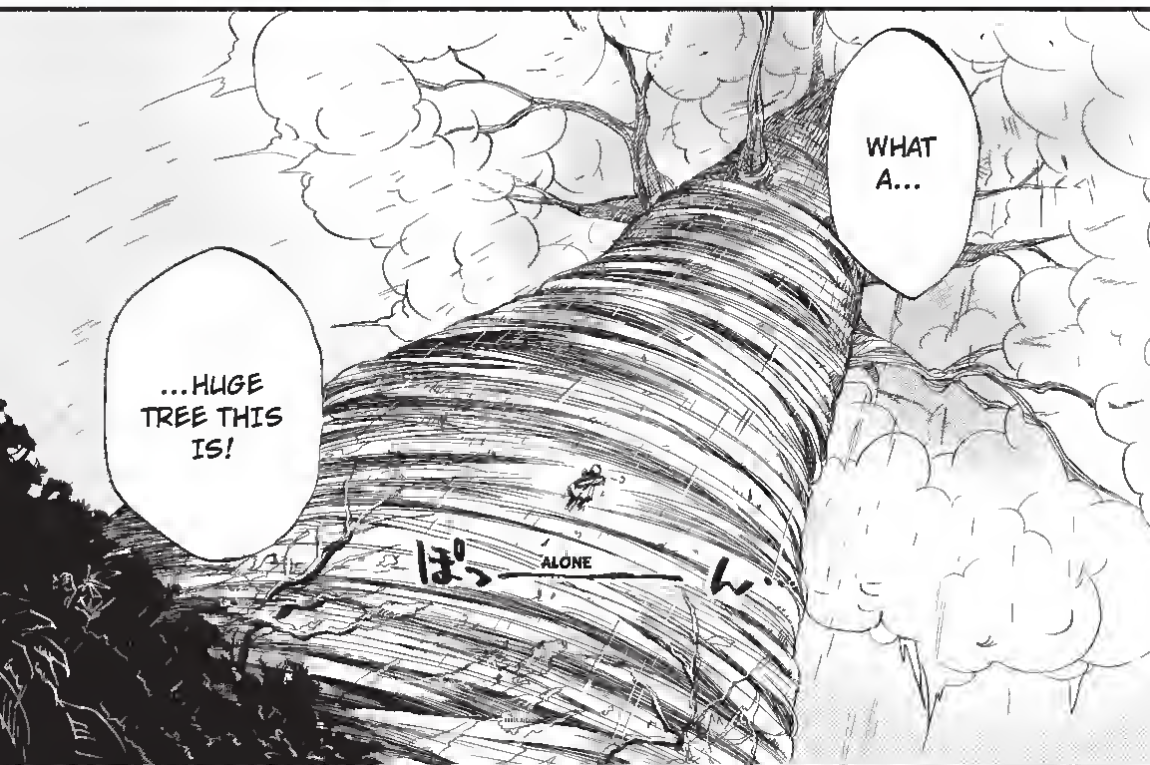
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE...
...SACRIFICED FOR THIS RAIN!
DAMN IT!
SMACK
.....!!
GULP
FLAP
SPLISH
TMP

HAA
HAA
HUFF!
SLIP
!
THE RAIN IS MAKING IT SLIPP—
AUGH!

HUFF
HAA
GULP

BUT...
SHHH

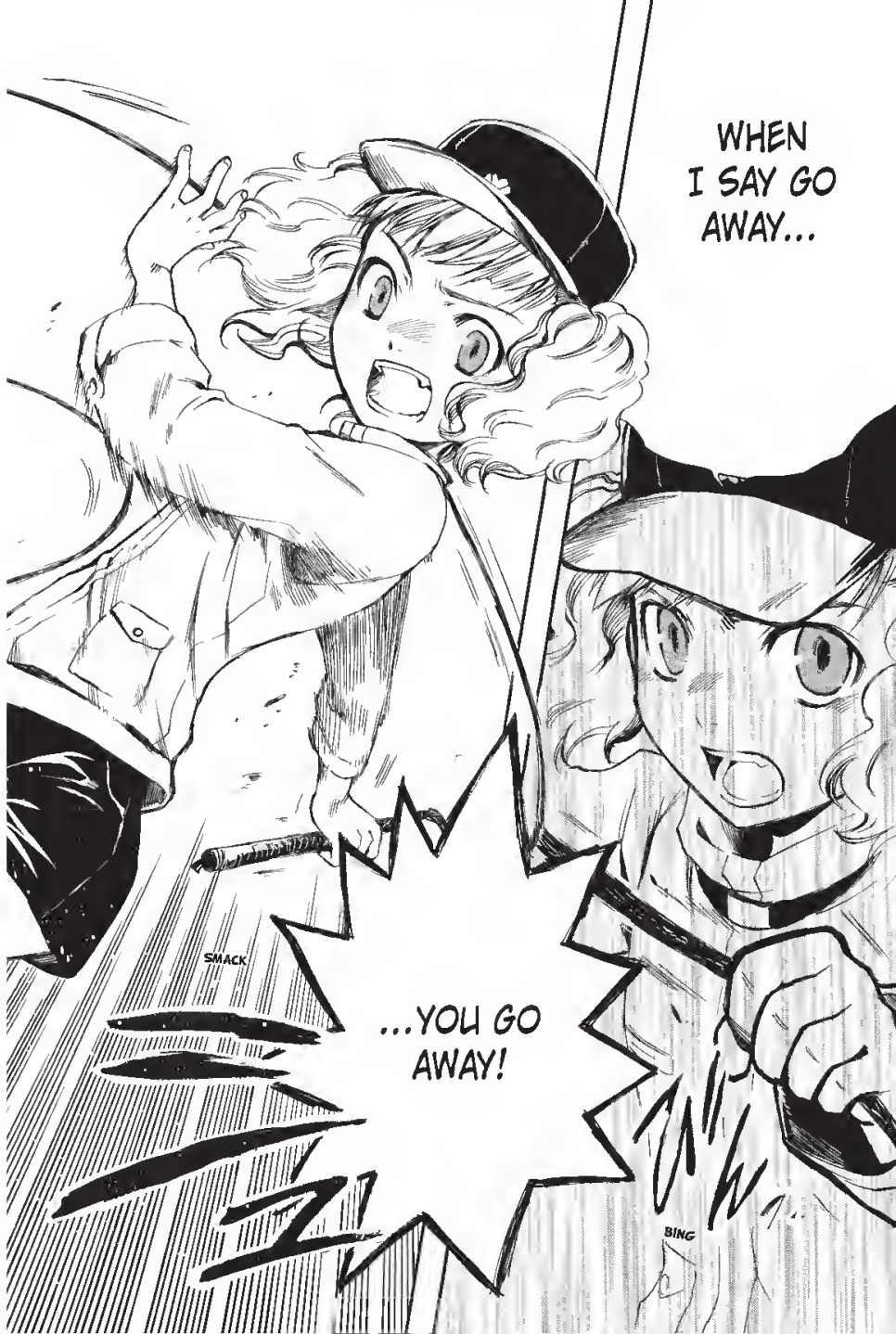
GRR
NO! NO!
DON'T LOOK DOWN!!


WHAT A...
...HUGE TREE THIS IS!
ALONE

...REALLY UP THERE?
IS THE GOD-DESS...
MY WHOLE BODY HURTS.
.....
AUGHH.
PHEW!
THUMP
THUMP
SCRATCH
SLIP
OOPS!
SWOO
MY HEAD IS SPINNING.

GO AWAY.
DID I HEAR SOME-THING?
SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH ME.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
I HEARD YOU LOUD AND—
BAH
HUH?

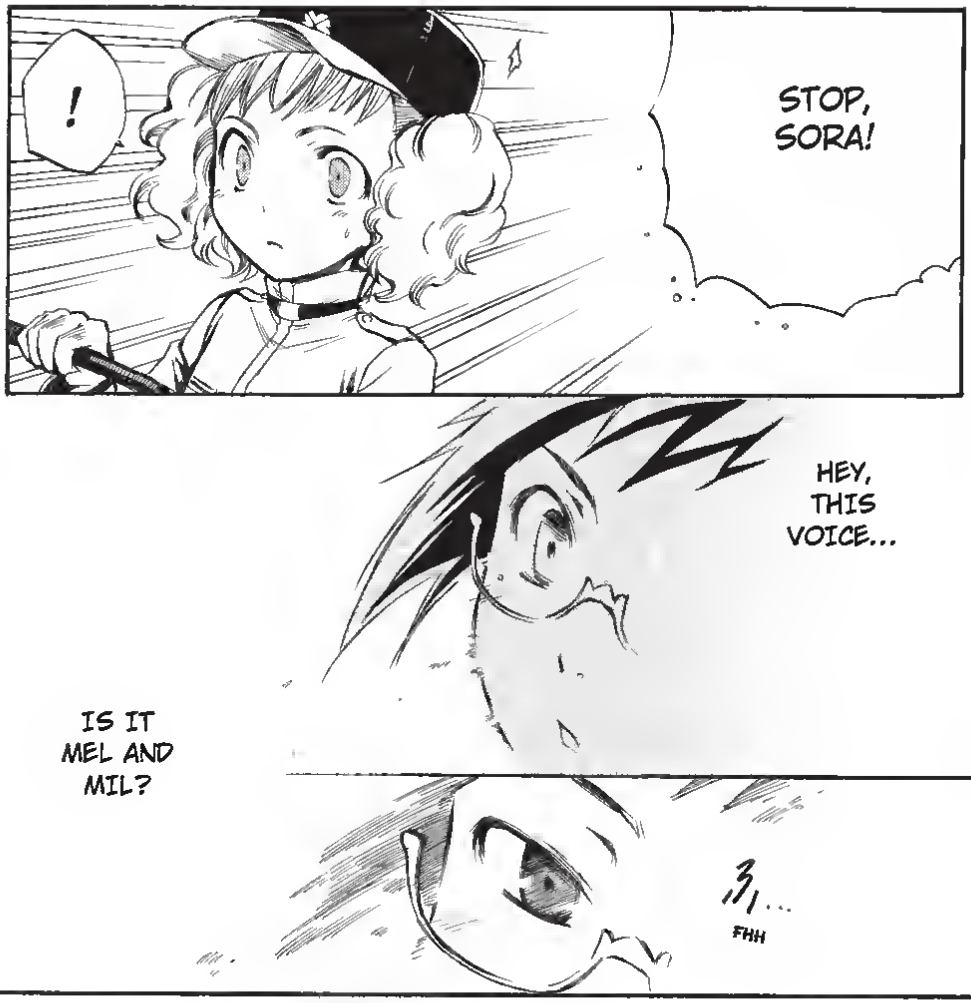
EEK!
CRACK


WHEN I SAY GO AWAY...
SMACK
...YOU GO AWAY!
BING

EEP!
SLIDE
KRRUMP
KLONNK
THUMP
DO YOU WANT TO END UP LIKE THAT THING?
KRUUK KRUUK
WAIT—
SWISH

HOW DARE YOU!
HOLD IT! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO VIOLENT.
BAM
CLUTCH
!!
SWISH
SWISH
HUH?

DARN YOU, PEST!
ZAPF
FLAP
WHAT THE...?
PREPARE TO DIE!
I'M GOING TO DIE.
SWOO
IT'S OVER.



I FINALLY...

...FOUND...

I FOUND—
GIMMY!
HEY.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.
BAH
?!
MEL AND MIL.

WHERE ARE WE?
.....
YUP!
WE'RE AT SORA'S HOUSE.
I'M HOME!
...SORA?
WHO'S...
.....?

WERE YOU BEING GOOD, MY DOLLIES?
I'M DONE WITH PATROLLING.
BAM
ばーーー

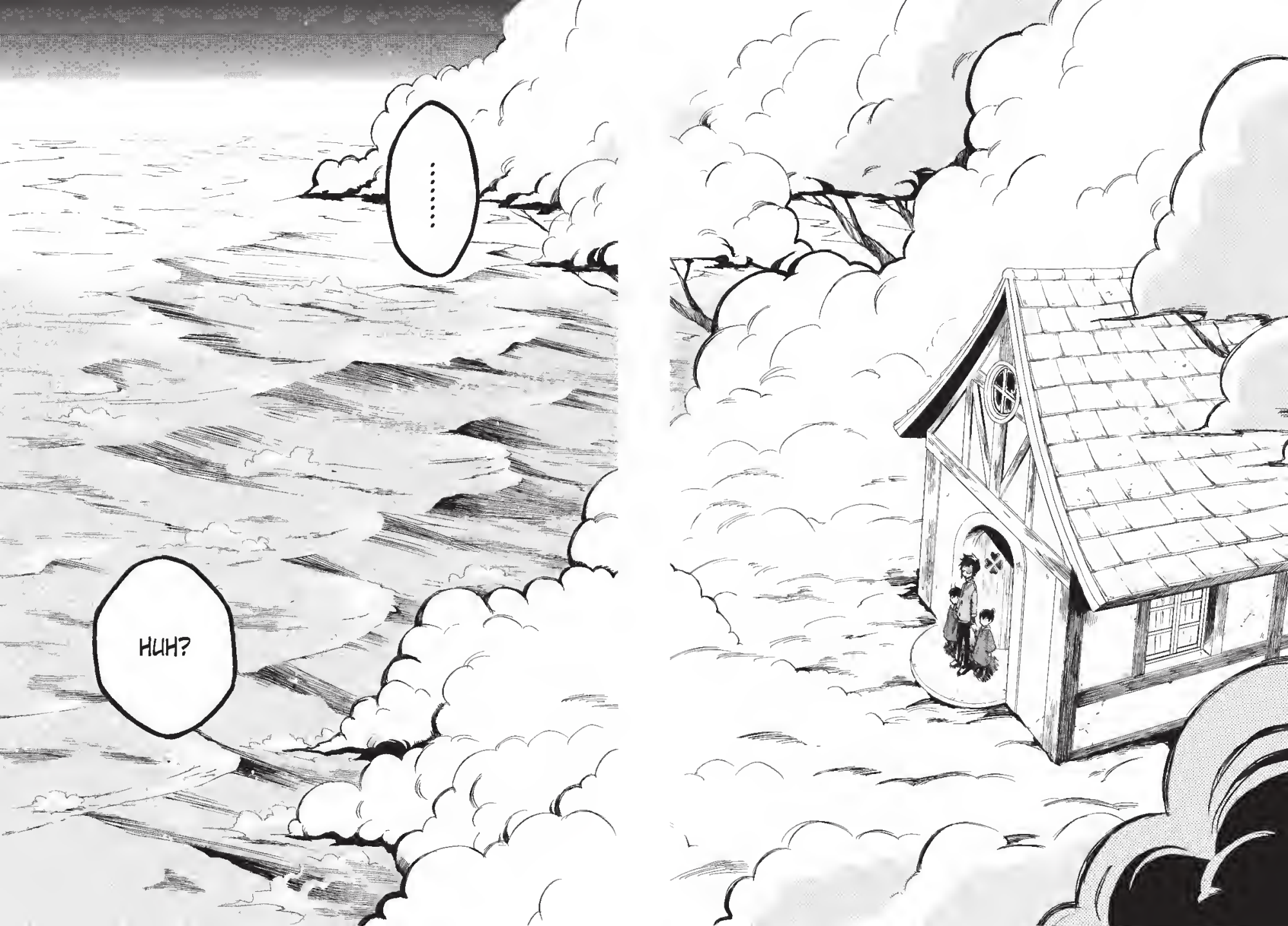
CRACK
AH...
.....
SWOO
OH, YOU'RE ALIVE.
FLINCH
!!
MY...
GRRRR
MY...
GRRR
...EXPERIMENTAL SKATEBOARD!

VOOSH
VOOSH
WAHH
GIVE ME BACK MY SKATE-BOARD!!
EEEP
HE LOST IT!
VOOSH
VOOSH

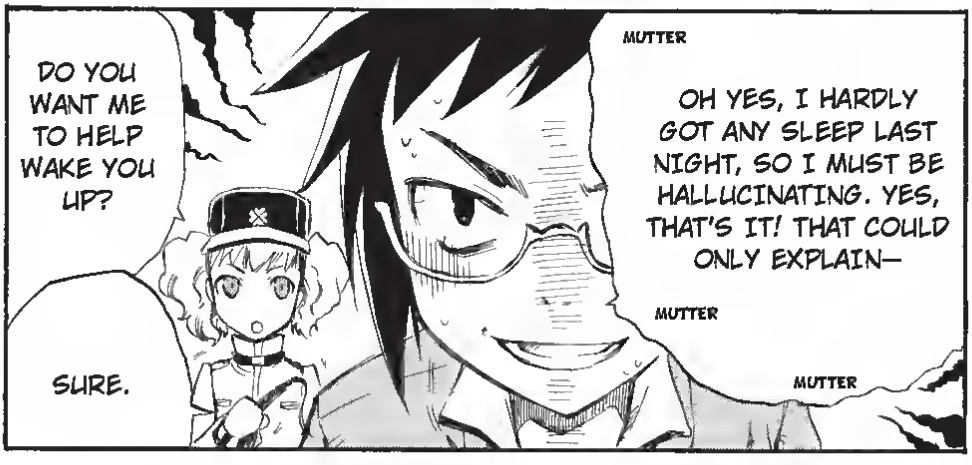
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
SHE DEMOLISHED THE SKATEBOARD I WORKED SO HARD ON.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A VIOLENT PERSON LIKE YOU BEFORE!

HIS PERSONALITY CHANGES WHEN IT COMES TO HIS INVENTIONS.
OH NO, SORA.
WAHH
STUNNED

NOW, LET'S GO HOME!
BUT, GIMMY...
...WE'RE ON—
TUG
THAT'S IT, WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING MORE TO DO WITH YOU.
I HOPE WE NEVER MEET AGAIN!
KCHAK
.....
WHOOSH


.....
HUH?

THIS...
WOOSH
THIS IS...
UH...


DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP WAKE YOU UP?
SURE.
MUTTER
OH YES, I HARDLY GOT ANY SLEEP LAST NIGHT, SO I MUST BE HALLUCINATING. YES, THAT'S IT! THAT COULD ONLY EXPLAIN—
MUTTER
MUTTER

?!
SLAP
SLAP
OKAY.
SWOOSH
HEY!
WHAT DID YOU DO—
TUG
I'M FINISHED WITH YOU.
I SPARED YOUR LIFE, SO LEAVE NOW.
FWIP
GRR
!

WHO CARES?
I'M A HUMAN WITH FEELINGS! MY NAME IS GIMMY!
YOU TREAT ME LIKE A PEST BUT...
YOU DAMAGED MY TREE.
THAT MAKES YOU A PEST.
WHAT'S WITH HER?
THOSE TWO GO BACK WITH ME. WE'RE LEAVING TOGETHER.
NO WAY.
RAH
SO GET OUT OF HERE.
GRRR
HUMPH
SHFF

I SAID IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.
YOU SAW THAT RAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT?
FWIP
FALTER
?
THE RAIN?
THE BARGAIN...
...HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED.
GRIN

I'M AMEFURASHI THE GODDESS.
THESE DOLLIES WERE GIVEN TO ME TO KEEP!

I MET HER ON TOP OF THE NIMBUS TREE...
...THE SACRED TREE THAT HYDRATES THIS DRY LAND. SHE WAS...
I'M AMEFURASHI THE GODDESS.
THESE DOLLIES WERE GIVEN TO ME TO KEEP.

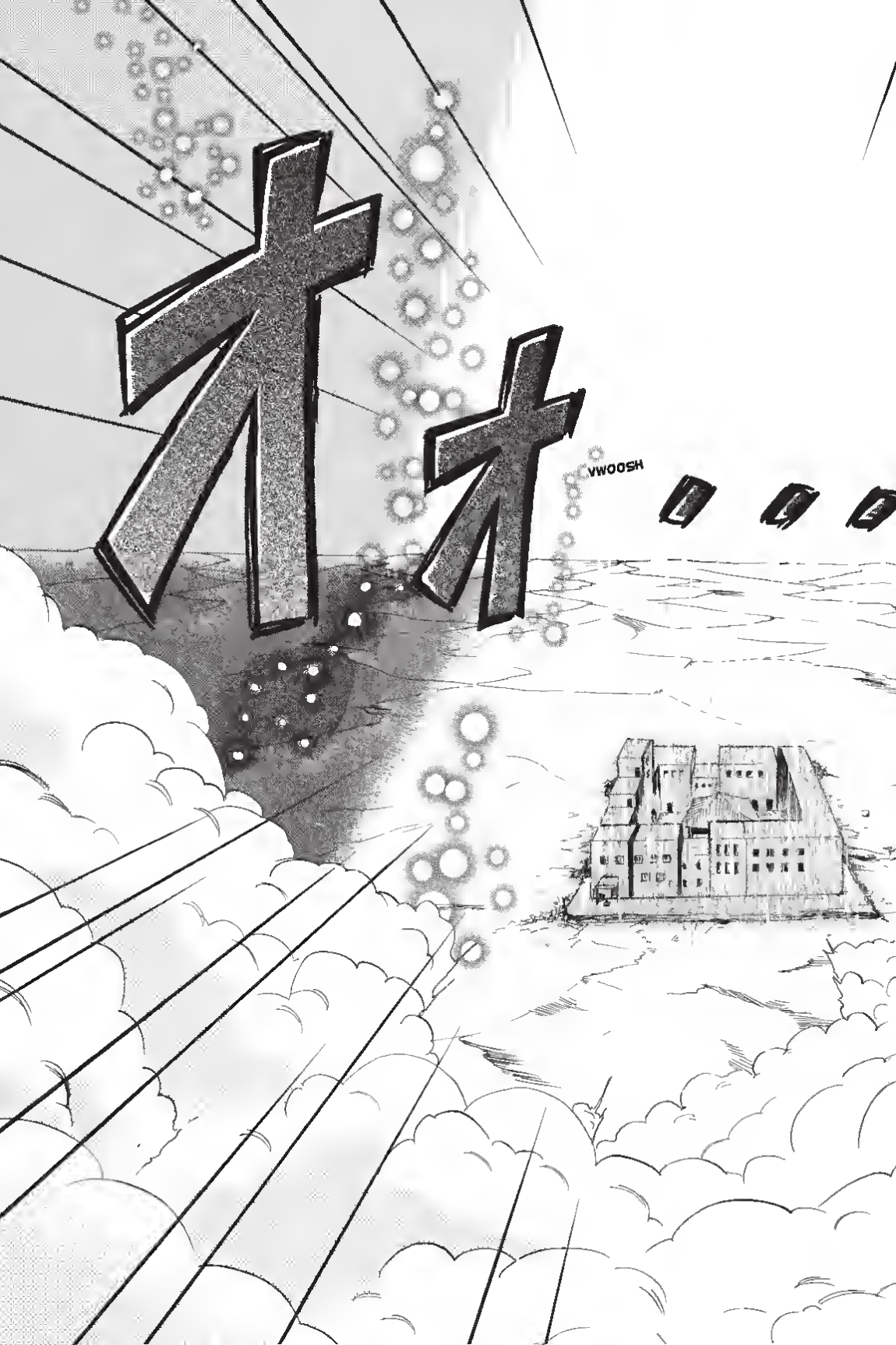
Drop 2 Partly Rain, Partly Reverse Rain

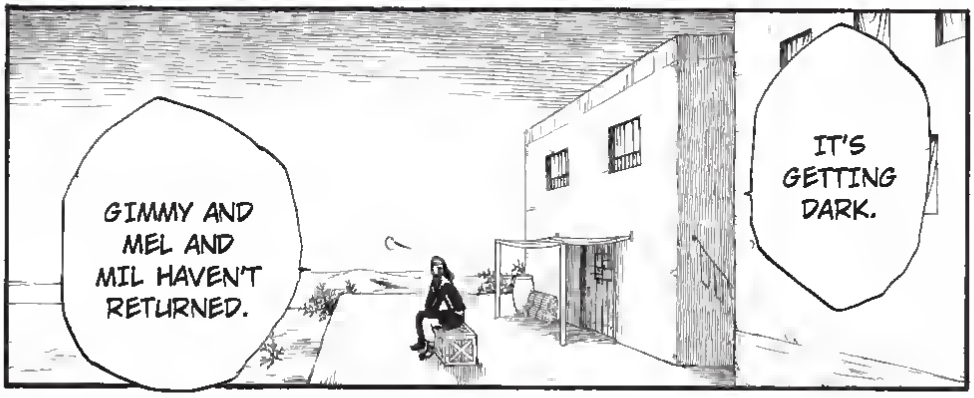
ARE YOU...
...KIDDING ME?
KIDDING YOU?
?
THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A LIE! YOU'RE NOT AMEFURASHI!
A LIE?!
GRR
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO IN THIS HOUSE IN OUR SACRED TREE...
...NOR AM I INTERESTED IN YOUR MOTIVES.

DON'T CARRY YOUR PRANKS TOO FAR OR YOU'LL GET PUNISHED.
I'M TAKING THEM BACK!
TUG
HEY
THEY'RE MY SIBLINGS.
I WON'T GET PUNISHED.
I GIVE PUNISHMENT.

WE HAVE COMPLETED THE BARGAIN.
BUT...
...YOU WANT ME TO RETURN THE SACRIFICE?
PEOPLE ASKED FOR RAIN.
SO I GAVE IT TO THEM IN EXCHANGE FOR A SACRIFICE.
I GUESS THIS MEANS...
I KNOW SHE MUST BE BLUFFING.
FLINCH
I FEEL INTIMIDATED.
ACK!
...I HAVE NO CHOICE...
...BUT TO TAKE BACK THAT RAIN.
SHFF

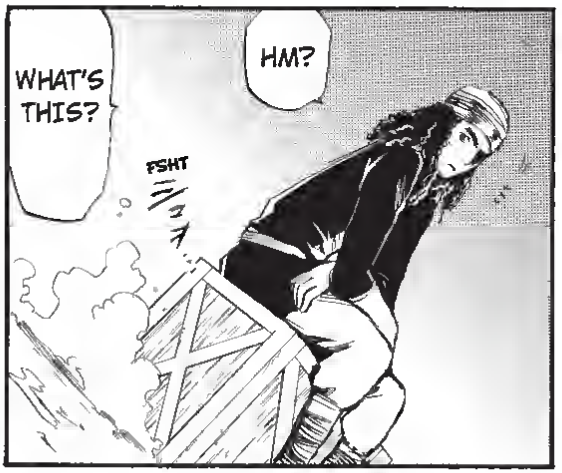
WHAT?
?!

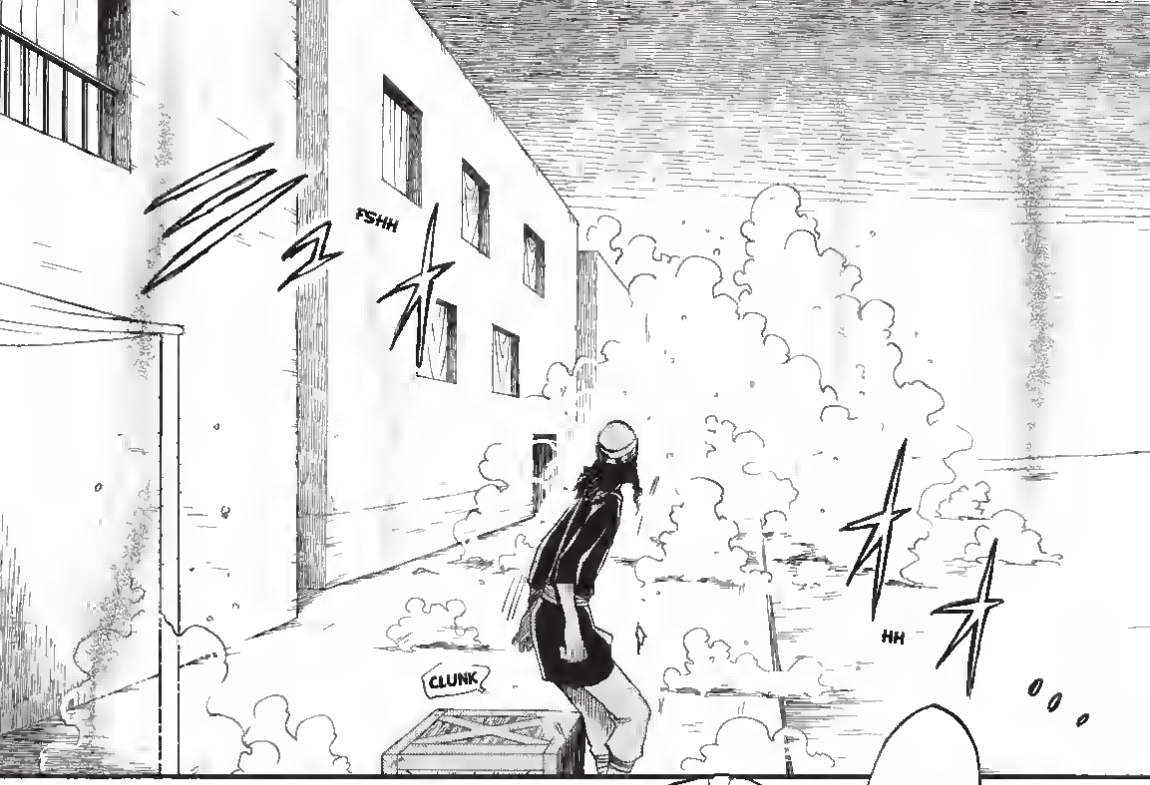

オオ
VWOOSH


GIMMY AND MEL AND MIL HAVEN'T RETURNED.
IT'S GETTING DARK.

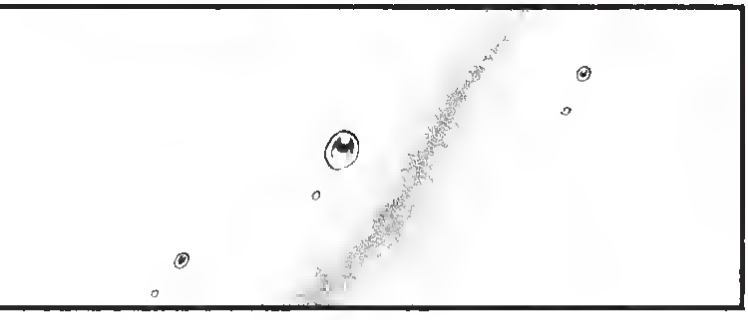
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO THEM?
FSHH

!


HM?
WHAT'S THIS?
FSHT

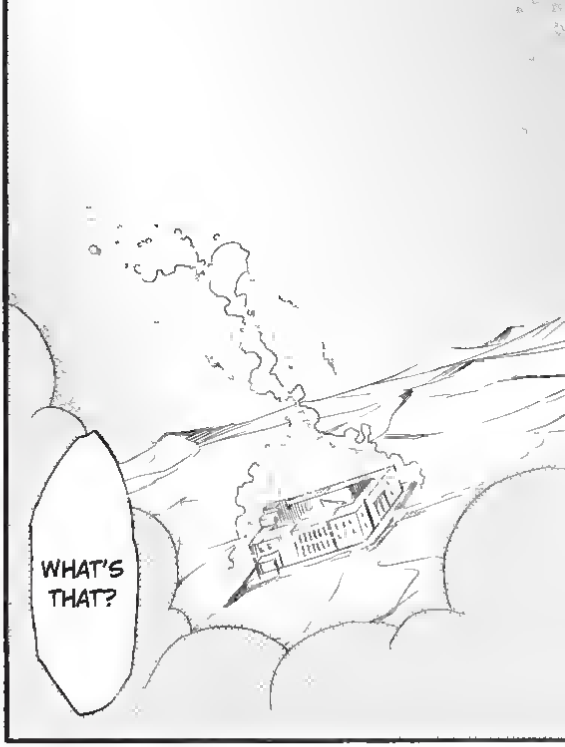

FSHH
CLUNK
HH

THE WATER IS...
...BEING ABSORBED?

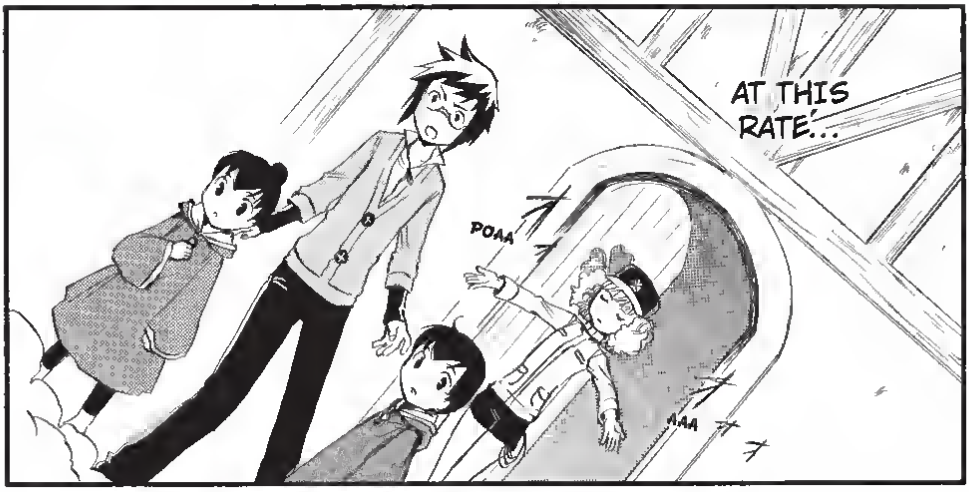


LOOK AT OUR RESERVOIR WATER!
FSHHHHH
HEY.
CHATTER
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SSSHH
THIS IS...
HHH
...THE REVERSE RAIN!
COULD THE AMEFURASHI BE ANGRY?
WHY?

NO, IT LOOKS LIKE STEAM.
THERE'S SMOKE COMING FROM THE VILLAGE.
.....!!


WHAT'S THAT?

...ISN'T BEING DRIED OUT, IS IT?
THE VILLAGE...


AT THIS RATE...
POAA
AAA

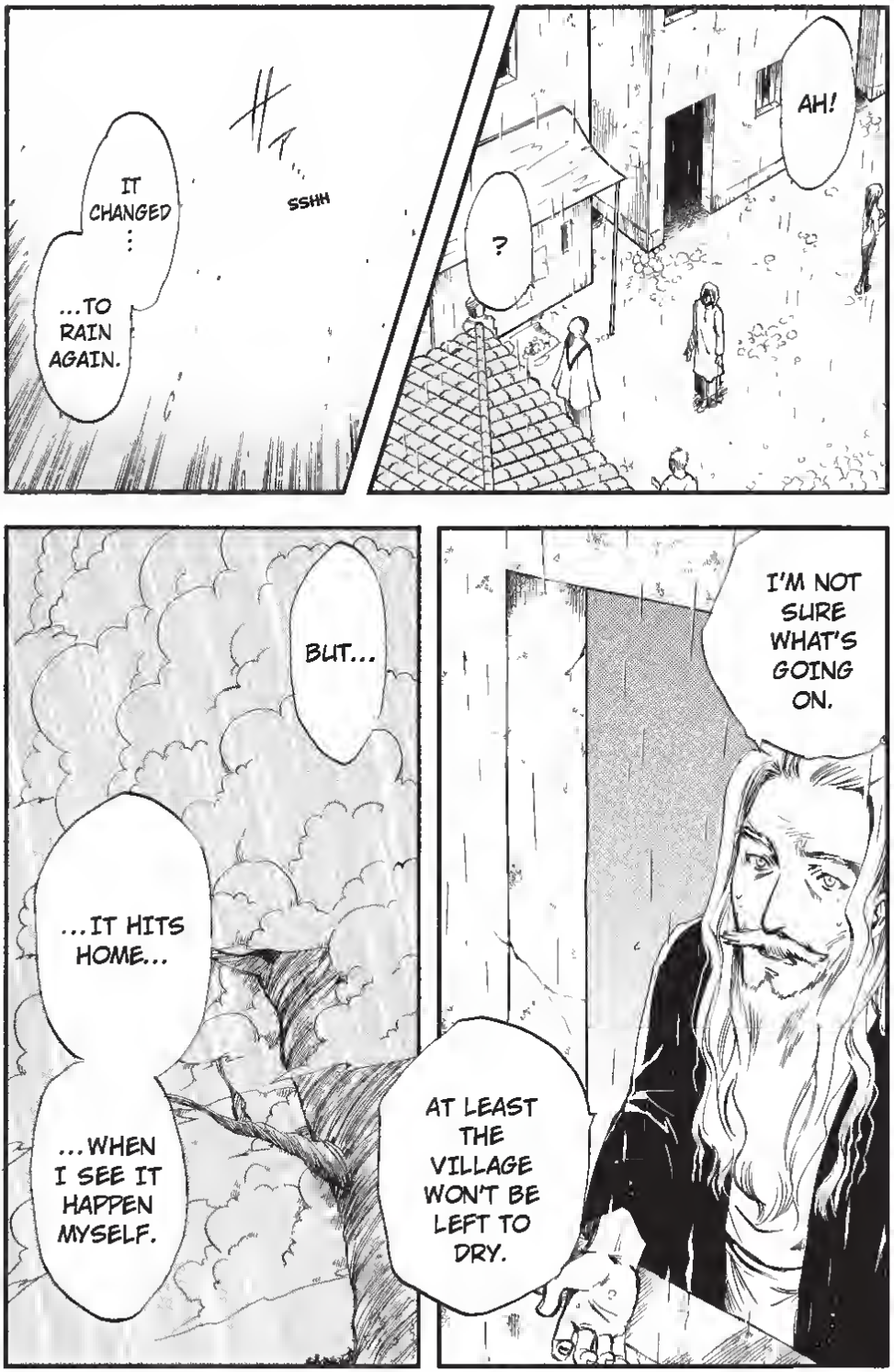
S-
THE VILLAGE WILL BE DESTROYED BECAUSE OF ME...!

STOP!!

WHAT'S WITH YOU?
IT WAS YOU WHO BROKE THE BARGAIN.
.....?!

GIMMY?
STOP...
SLUMP

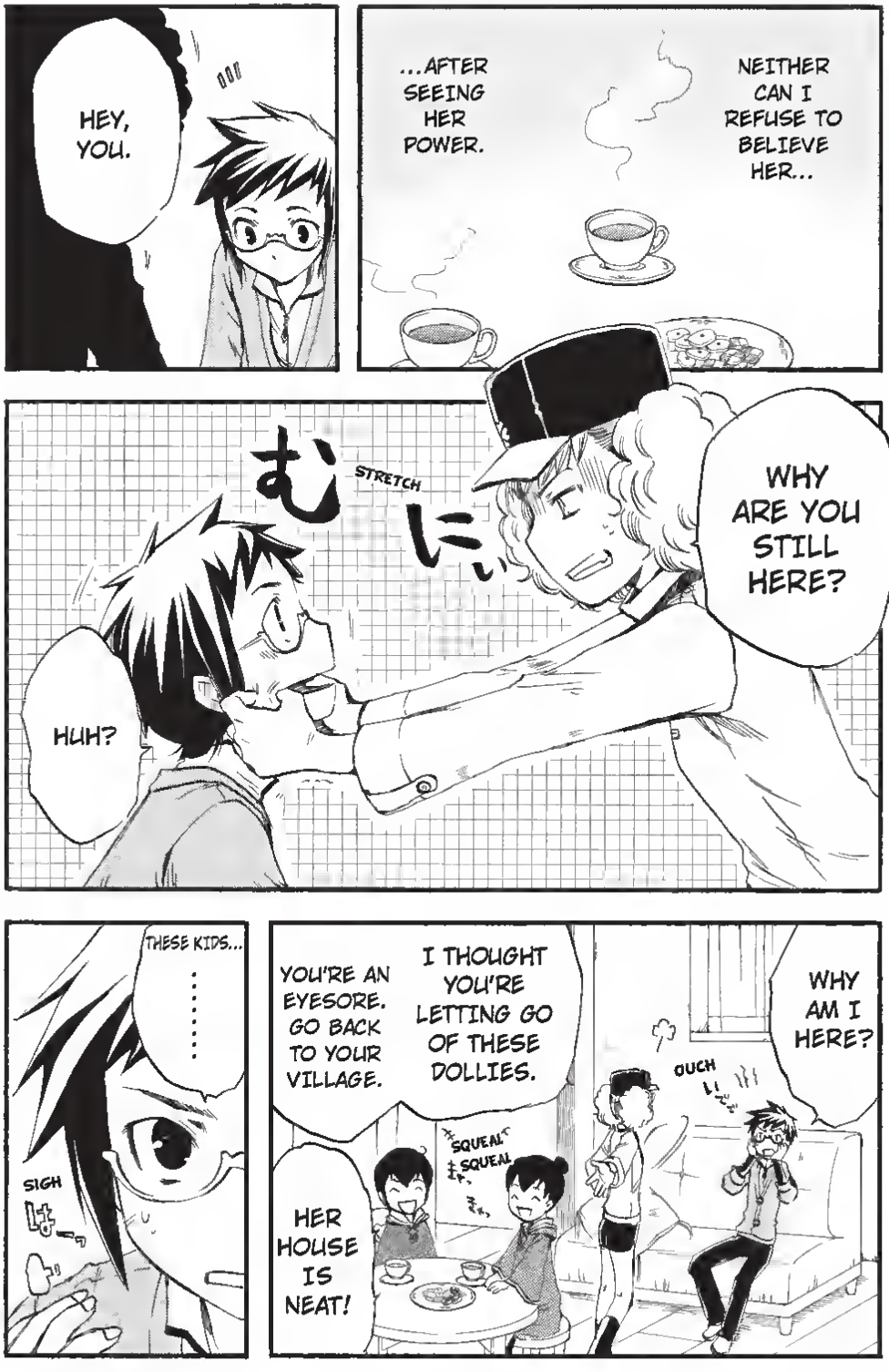
.....
PLEASE!
SHFF
SSHH
SPLISH
PLIP
PLIP


IT CHANGED ⋮
...TO RAIN AGAIN.
SSHH
?
AH!
I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON.
AT LEAST THE VILLAGE WON'T BE LEFT TO DRY.
BUT...
...IT HITS HOME...
...WHEN I SEE IT HAPPEN MYSELF.

...THAT THIS BRAT IS A GODDESS.

NOBODY WOULD EVER BELIEVE...

BUT...


HEY, YOU.
...AFTER SEEING HER POWER.
NEITHER CAN I REFUSE TO BELIEVE HER...
むにい
STRETCH
WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?
HUH?
THESE KIDS...
SIGH
I THOUGHT YOU'RE LETTING GO OF THESE DOLLIES.
YOU'RE AN EYESORE. GO BACK TO YOUR VILLAGE.
HER HOUSE IS NEAT!
SQUEAL SQUEAL
OUCH
WHY AM I HERE?

I NEED TO BUY TIME UNTIL I CAN FIND A GOOD SOLUTION.
WAIT, WAIT A MINUTE!
FLINCH
BAH!
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
?!
WHAT? YOU STILL WON'T GIVE UP? ALL RIGHT, I'LL TAKE THE RAIN—
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT THEM.
SHFF
OH!
I MIGHT GET LOST, SO I'LL WAIT UNTIL IT'S LIGHT.
I-I WANT TO GO HOME, BUT LOOK HOW DARK IT IS.
FWIP
THEN I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT RIGHT NOW.
AHA
I GET IT NOW.
FLIP
くるんっ

FWIP
LET'S GET GOING.
KCHAK
?
GRIN
SHRRUP
BYE-BYE. ♡
SWOOSH
SWOOSH
HUH?

WHOOSH
?!

POIK
THIS WILL GET YOU STRAIGHT TO THE VILLAGE.
BAM

ほっ
AH!
WHOOSH
ヒュオオオ…
HUH?

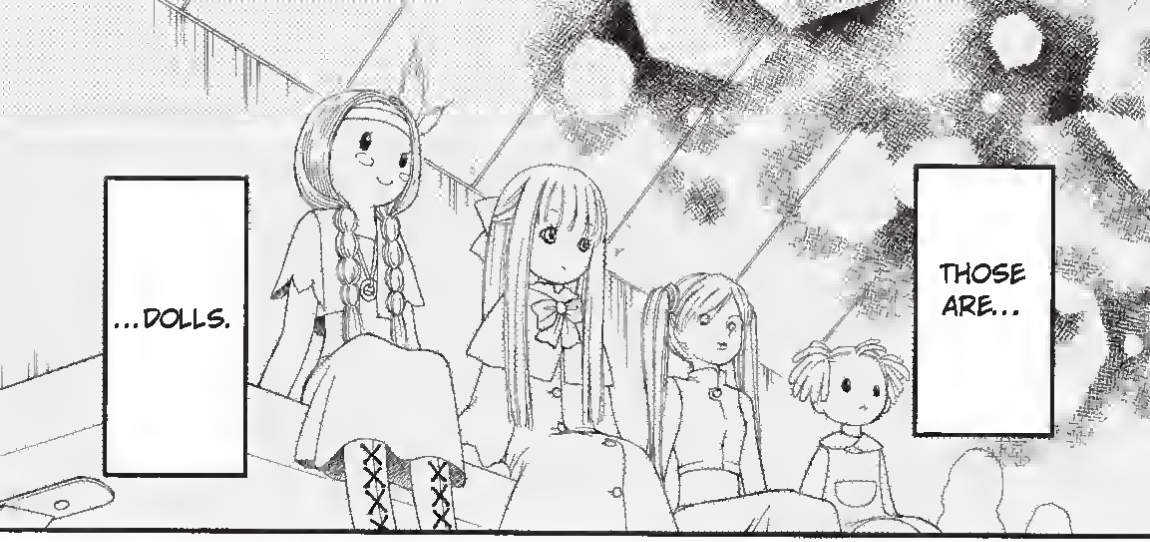
THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM MY POWER.
GIMMY!
AAIIEEEE!
VOOSH
VOOSH
EEEEEEP!!
DEMON?
STOP, SORA!
YOU CALL ME A DEMON?
DEMO-O-O-N!
GRR
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU DEMON?!

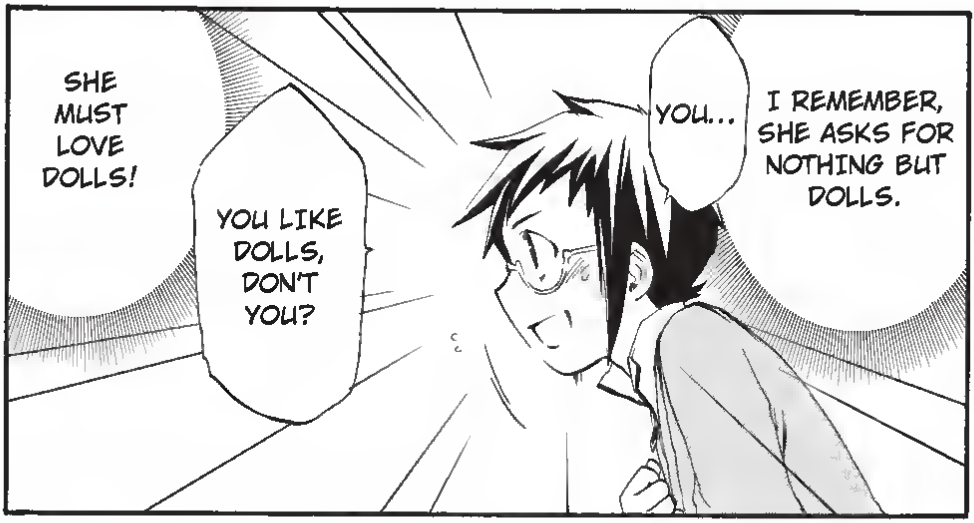
EEP
GET IT OFF?
JUST GET THIS OFF OF ME!
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME THAT!
FWIP
FINE.
HAH?
SHRUP

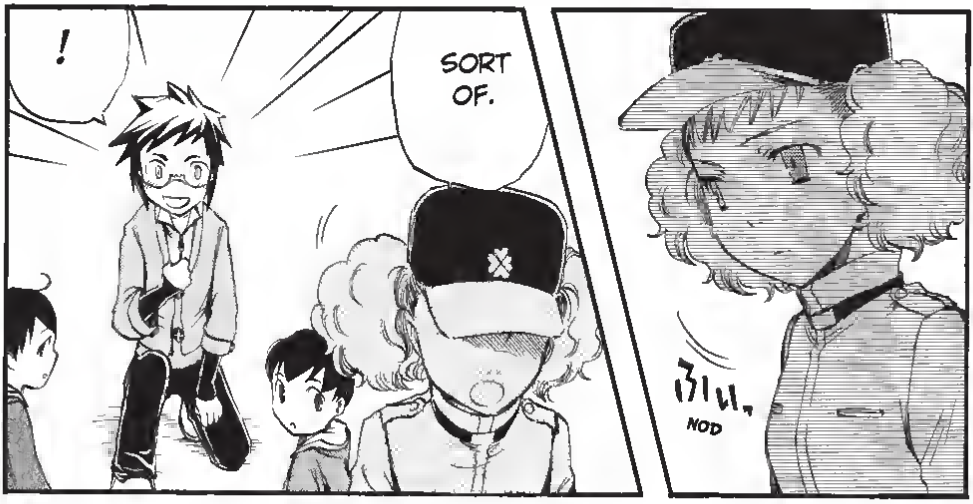
AIYEEE (CRIES)!
STOP THAT, SORA!
JEEZ!
YOU PASS OUT EASILY.
はぁ
SIGH
あ

YOU'RE ACTING CRAZY!
YOU STILL TALK TO ME LIKE THAT?
I TOLD YOU I'M THE GOD-DESS.
ALL RIGHT.
SIGH
OUR GREAT AMEFURASHI.
SHFF

AHEM.
PLEASE...
...FORGIVE ME FOR MY RUDENESS.
I JUST WANTED YOU TO UNDER-STAND.
.....
TWINGE
.....
I...
.....?
...ANY WAY TO COAX HER?
IS THERE...
I CAN'T STAND THIS BUT...
...I HAVE TO JUST PUT UP WITH HER.


THOSE ARE...
...DOLLS.


I REMEMBER, SHE ASKS FOR NOTHING BUT DOLLS.
YOU...
YOU LIKE DOLLS, DON'T YOU?
SHE MUST LOVE DOLLS!


SORT OF.
!
うんうん
NOD

...GOOD AT MAKING DOLLS.
WELL, I AM...
I'M—
BAH
ばっ
THAT'S IT!
...GET OUT OF HERE.
IF WE COULD JUST...
IF YOU LET US RETURN TO THE VILLAGE...
...I WILL DELIVER TO YOU TEN DOLLS PRETTIER THAN THESE TWO.
...DOLLS?
TWITCH
ピくん
PRETTIER...

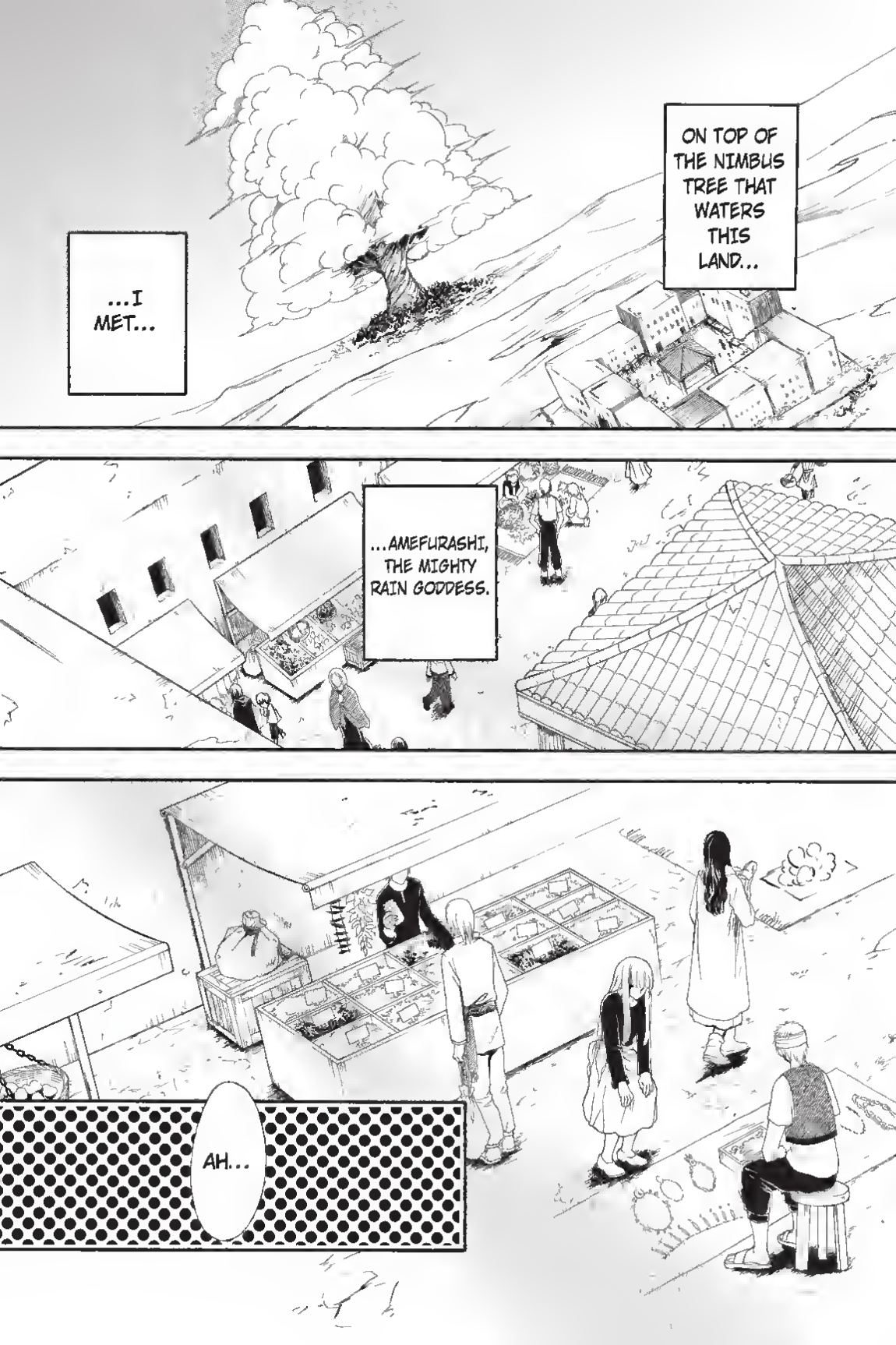
TH-THERE IS NO WAY...
FIDGET
FIDGET
...I WOULD FALL FOR THAT...
...BUT...
YES, VERY GORGEOUS DOLLS!
WE COULD JUST BLUFF OUR WAY OUT OF THIS.
I, I GUESS I CAN TAKE A LOOK AT THEM.
HEH-HEH
YES!
OKAY!
I'LL KEEP THEM HERE UNTIL THE DOLLS ARE COMPLETED.
I'LL GO CHECK OUT YOUR DOLLS TOMORROW. ♡
RETURN US TO THE VILLAGE FIRST—
NO!

POAAA
!
SHIFT
FWAA
FHH

はっ
POP
しゅん
WHOA!
ZAPP

COME ON. HURRY UP AND SHOW ME THE WAY.
……
せーは
WHEEZE HUFF
EEK!
THAT WAS SCARY!
せーは
WHEEZE HUFF

DID YOU SEE THAT JUST NOW?
SHE'S INTERESTING.
YEAH.
THAT'S...
...AN EXCELLENT TARGET WE FOUND.


ON TOP OF THE NIMBUS TREE THAT WATERS THIS LAND...
...I MET...
...AMEFURASHI, THE MIGHTY RAIN GODDESS.
AH...

Drop 3 A Big Wave!

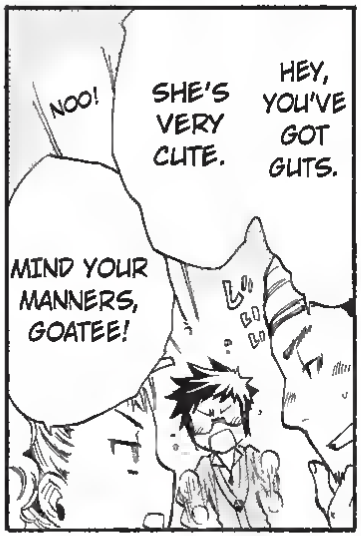
WOWW!!
OHH!
THAT IS...
STUNNED
ぽかーん
.....
...THIS GIRL NAMED SORA.
THEY'RE JUST DAILY NECESSI-TIES.
DON'T YOU KNOW?
WHAT'S THIS?
CACKLE
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S THIS?!

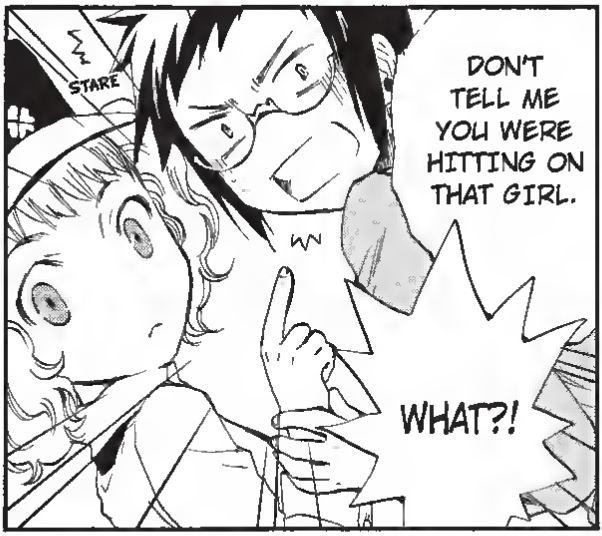
GASP
!
GIMMY.
WHERE DID YOU GET THEM FROM?
HEAVY
わっさー
THAT'S WHY I'M ASKING WHAT THEY ARE!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GWARRR
UHM...
WELL...
IS THAT THIEF YOUR FRIEND?
HEY!
ARE YOU STARTING A FIGHT WITH ME?
SHRUP
ZAPF
HAA
HAA

MAY I ASK WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
?
I MEAN...
MAN, WHAT ARE—
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
CONFUSED
HUH?
OR WE'D GET SENT TO JAIL.
IT'S CUSTOMARY TO TRADE SOMETHING FOR IT.
CLINK
!
SENT TO JAIL?
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG. I JUST TOOK THEM.
EVEN A GODDESS SHOULDN'T STEAL. IT'S THE WRONG THING TO DO!
WE CALL IT STEALING AND IT'S WRONG!
RAH

THEN THAT WOULD MAKE YOU A THIEF, TOO.
YOU TRIED TO TAKE AWAY...
...THE TRADE YOU GAVE ME FOR THE RAIN.
THE TRADE
ACK!
FALTER
SO THAT WASN'T STEALING?
OH, MAN!
GRRRR
G-GIMMY.
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO MAKE SOMETHING TO TRADE FOR THEM!

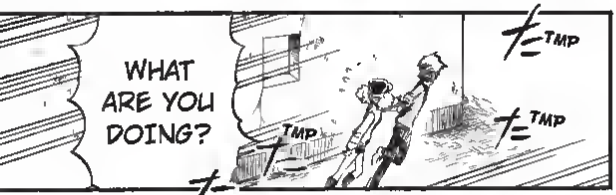
UH...
I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU WOULDN'T COME HOME.
!
DARYL!


NOO!
SHE'S VERY CUTE.
HEY, YOU'VE GOT GUTS.
MIND YOUR MANNERS, GOATEE!


STARE
DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE HITTING ON THAT GIRL.
WHAT?!

GOATEE...
WHAT WEIRD THINGS?
STOP SAYING WEIRD THINGS IN MY TOWN!
TRUMP
TRUMP
SHOCK

UH, I'VE GOT THINGS TO DO.
I'M AMEFU—
HEY!
SHIFT


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

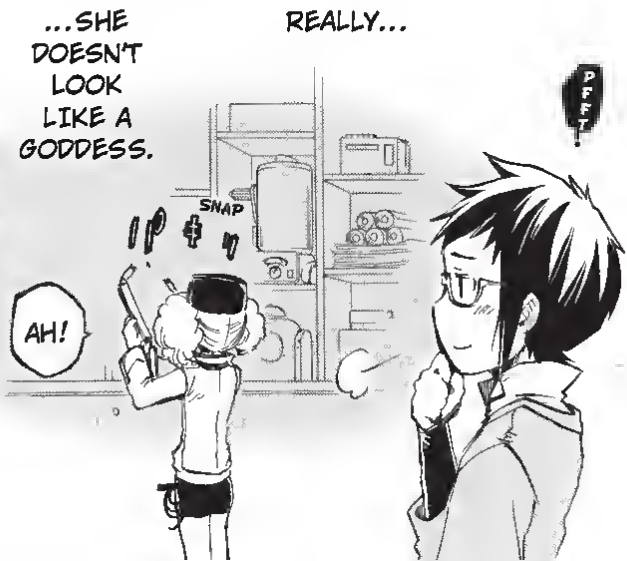
I WAS SAYING THE...
...TRUTH.
SCUFF
...ARE KICKING UP THE SAND.
MY FEET...
I FEEL SAND PARTICLES AGAINST MY CHEEK.
THAT'S ODD.

THIS SEEMS FAMILIAR.
SHFF
THIS IS OUR HOUSE.
O-

WOWW!!
OHH!

I GUESS...
...YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S THIS?!

TWITCH

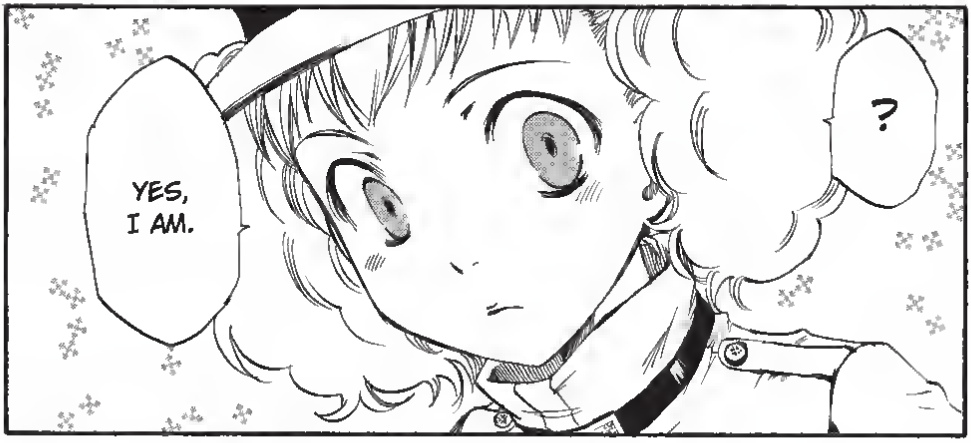

...SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A GODDESS.
REALLY...
SNAP
AH!
PFF

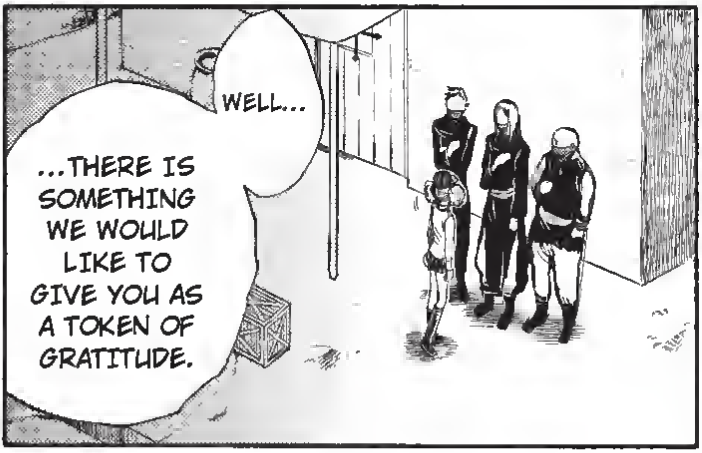
LISTEN.
MY TRIAL STUFF!
MUTTER
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE ORDERED AROUND?
MUTTER
PLEASE BE PATIENT.
PLEASE STAY THERE UNTIL I FINISH MAKING THE DOLLS.
IT ISN'T SAFE.
SORA, I MEAN, O GREAT AMEFURASHI.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
PLOP
SIGH...
.....
I'LL TRY TO HURRY BUT...
...NOT RIGHT AWAY.
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG, WILL IT?

MEL AND MIL'S LIVES DEPEND ON ME.
GLARE
...I SHOULD COME UP WITH SOME-THING GOOD.
THUMP
"THEY'RE THE WORLD'S PRETTIEST DOLLS."
NOW THAT I MADE THAT BLUFF...
I MUST PULL MYSELF TOGETHER!
SIGH
I'M BORED.
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
CLUNK
集
CONCENTRATE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
中
HEY.
WILL THEY BE READY BY DUSK?
WILL THEY?

SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SWOO
HMM
GLANCE
GLANCE
MISS.

...ARE YOU THE GREAT AMEFURASHI?
BY ANY CHANCE...
ZAPF


YES, I AM.
?

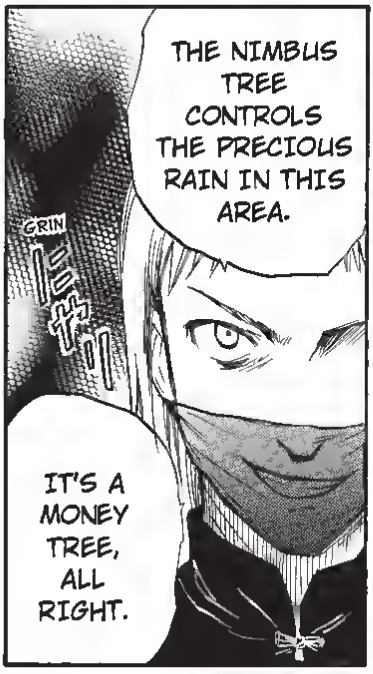

WELL...
...THERE IS SOMETHING WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE.

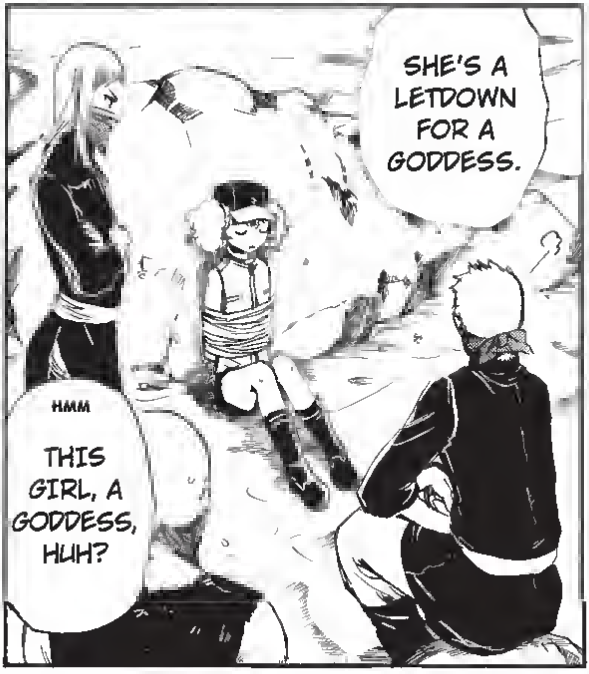
YOU ARE?
SMIRK

MUTTER
I CAN'T TAKE ANYTHING, BUT THEY'RE OFFERING IT FOR THE RAIN. IT'S OKAY TO ACCEPT IT, RIGHT?
?
NERVOUS
MUTTER
MUTTER
HMMM
IT'S FOR BRINGING US THE BLESSED RAIN.
GRATI-TUDE?
GRIN
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
THAT'S GREAT!
I'M NOT BUSY ANYWAY.
OKAY.
FLIP
PHEW
PHEW
PHEW!
CLUNK

DID SHE GO TO TOWN?
!!
WHEN DID SHE LEAVE?
HEY, SORA?
は,
GASP
I'VE GOT TO FIND HER!
WHAT'S THIS?
Booze
DON'T TELL ME...
...SHE'S UP TO HER TRICKS AGAIN.
SHIVER
ぶるくん

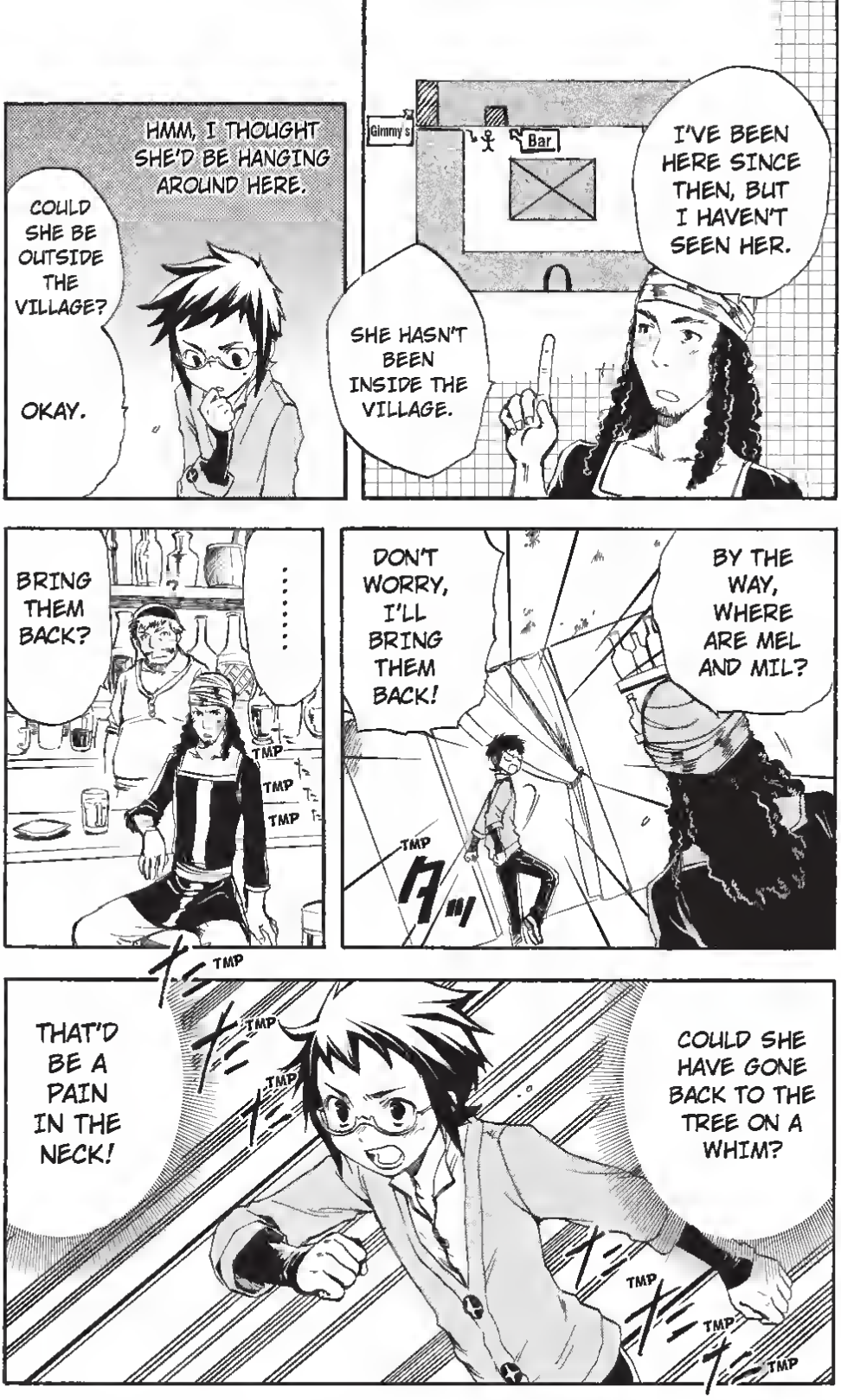
SO THIS IS AMEFURASHI.

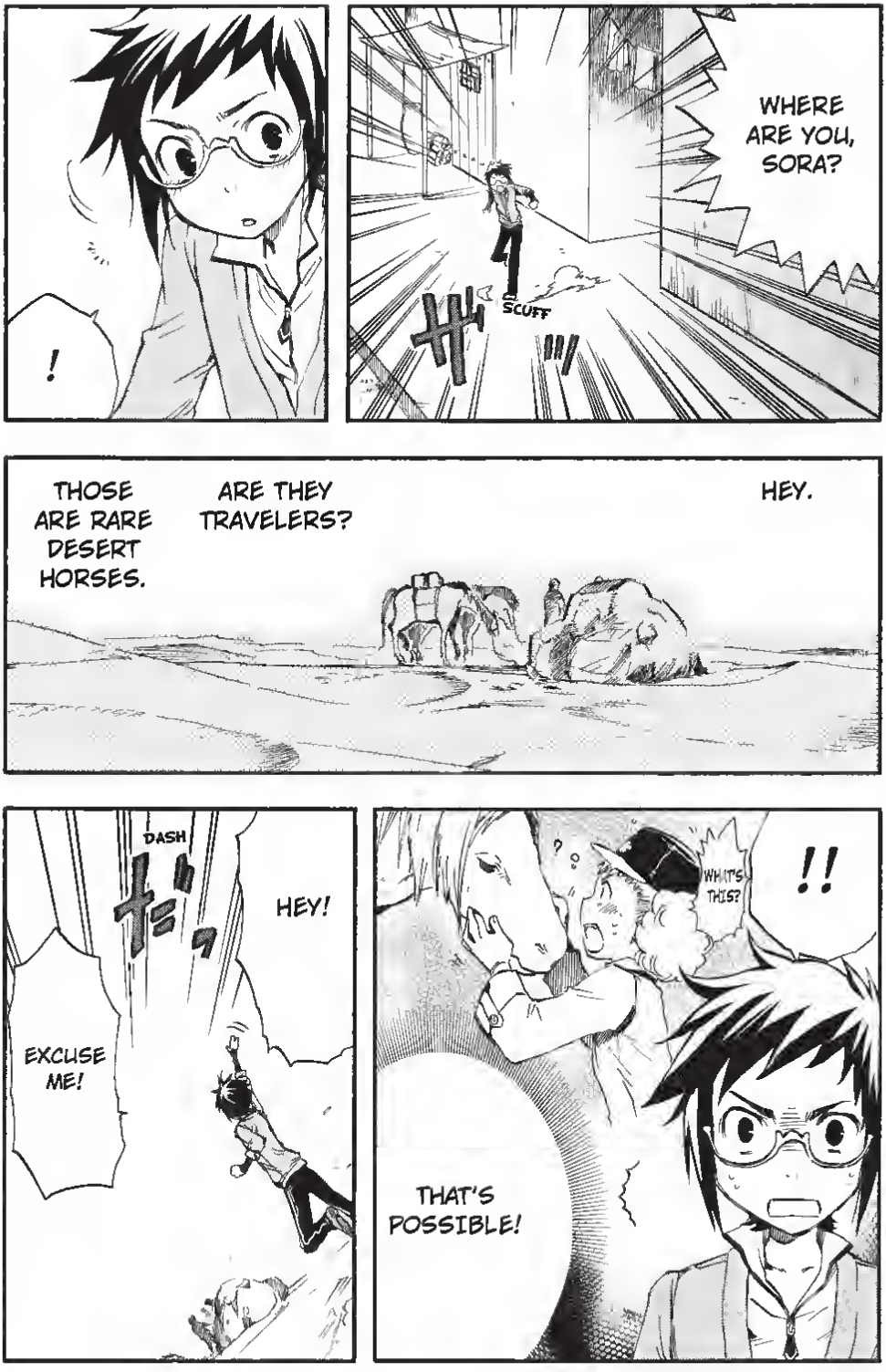

THE NIMBUS TREE CONTROLS THE PRECIOUS RAIN IN THIS AREA.
GRIN
ニヤリ
IT'S A MONEY TREE, ALL RIGHT.


SHE'S A LETDOWN FOR A GODDESS.
HMM
THIS GIRL, A GODDESS, HUH?

...WE'RE FINALLY CATCHING A BIG WAVE OF SUCCESS!
どばぁ
SPLOSH
OHH
AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS OF STRUGGLING AS SHABBY TRAVELING THIEVES...

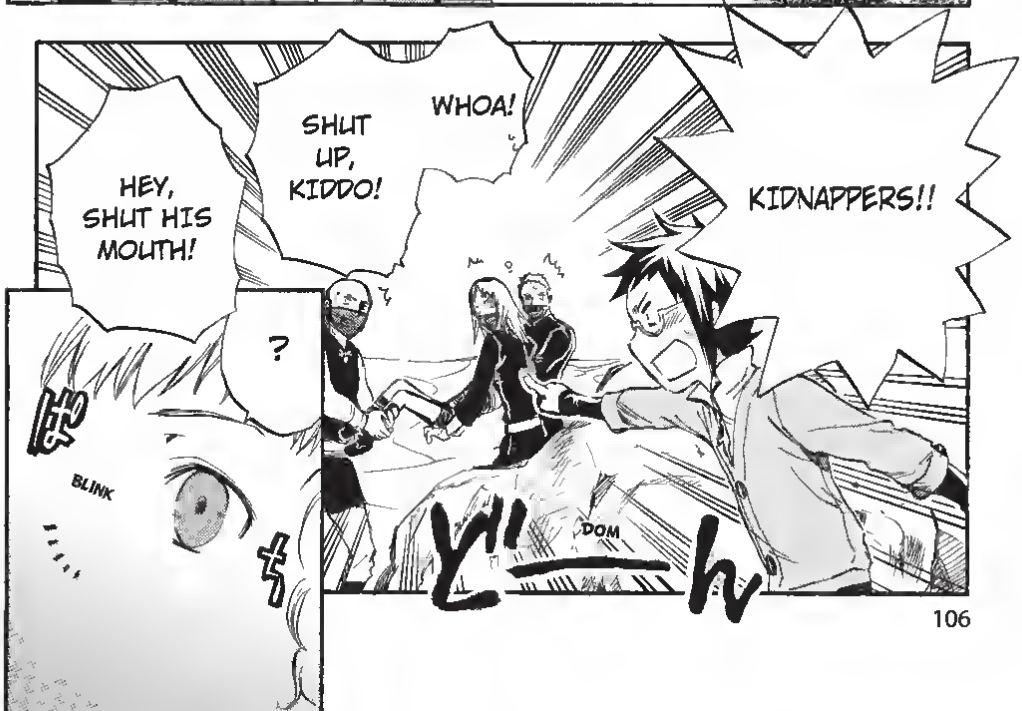
IF WE CAN LEARN TO CONTROL THIS GIRL...
...WE CAN EVEN BECOME KINGS.
TROMP
BAR
TROMP
TROMP
DARYL!
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
DROWNING SORROWS
DID...
HAH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT, GIMMY?
DID YOU SEE THAT GIRL?
WHAT?
DID SHE LEAVE YOU ALREADY?
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO HAPPY?
HMM.


HMM, I THOUGHT SHE'D BE HANGING AROUND HERE.
COULD SHE BE OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE?
OKAY.
Gimmy's
Bar
I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE THEN, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HER.
SHE HASN'T BEEN INSIDE THE VILLAGE.
BRING THEM BACK?
.....
TMP
TMP
TMP
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BRING THEM BACK!
BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE MEL AND MIL?
TMP
THAT'D BE A PAIN IN THE NECK!
COULD SHE HAVE GONE BACK TO THE TREE ON A WHIM?
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP


!
WHERE ARE YOU, SORA?
SCUFF
THOSE ARE RARE DESERT HORSES.
ARE THEY TRAVELERS?
HEY.
DASH
HEY!
EXCUSE ME!
?
WH IT'S THIS?
!!
THAT'S POSSIBLE!

HAVE YOU SEEN A GIRL AROUND HERE?
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
SHE'S GOT BLONDE—
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
FLINCH
WHAT?

K-


KIDNAPPERS!!
WHOA!
SHUT UP, KIDDO!
HEY, SHUT HIS MOUTH!
?
BLINK
DOM

WHOOPS.
SORA!
GLUK
WHAT'S THIS?
TIGHTLY
TIGHTLY
OUCH
.....?
THESE GUYS ARE KIDNAP-PERS.
RUN, SORA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
?
YOU SHUT UP!
THE VILLAGERS WILL SUSPECT US.
GAG HIM!
YAH
YAH
YAH
!!
THIEVES WHO STEAL PEOP...!
WHAM!
TH-THEY'RE THIEVES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
?

THIEVES?
SZZT
?!
FLINCH
DID SHE DRY OUT THE ROPE?
SSSSNNIII
FLAP
FLAP
SNATCH
FLAP
FLAP
SHFF
SO THEY'RE BAD PEOPLE.
THAT MEANS I HAVE TO...
...PUT THEM IN JAIL.
☆

DON'T HESITATE. SHE'S JUST A GIRL.
ALL OF US CAN HOLD HER DOWN.
EEP
YOU MONSTER!
BAH
BAH
POOF
GET HER!
HUH?
?!
SWISH

AH!
SHRUP
SHRUP
SHRUP
TUG
WHAM!
ALIGH!

SORA!
THUMP
DON'T SHOUT. YOUR BREATH STINKS!
HEY, KEEP YOUR FACE AWAY!
RAH
RAH
RAH
ERGHHH!
WAFT
UH-UH
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG.
FWIP

SWAY
グラ…
SIGH
JEEZ, YOU HAD ME WORRIED—
SWOO
WHAT?
SORA?
SO…

ZSHH
?
IT'S RAINING FOR NO REASON.
ZSHH
?
?!
PLIP
PLIP
HEY, ARE YOU HURT OR SOMETHING?
WHUMF
PLIP
WHAT'S...
...THIS?
GRAY...
...RAIN?

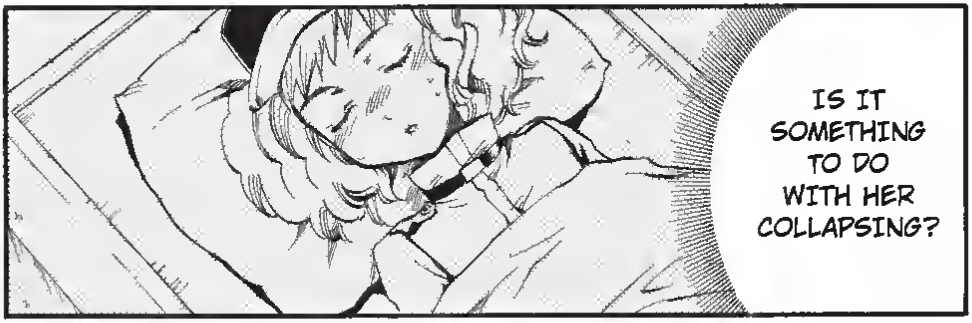
Drop 3 The End

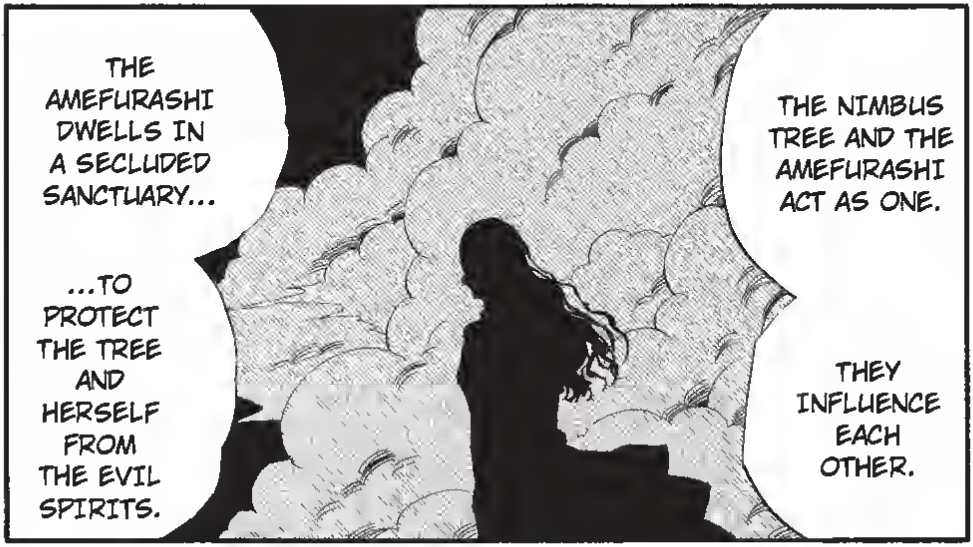
WISE OLD MAN!
WISE OLD MAN!
HUP
?
IT'S GRAY RAIN.
THIS CAN'T BE TRUE.
SSHHHH
CREAK
GIMMY!

Drop 4 Candy ★ Storm

THIS IS THE FIRST...
...GRAY RAIN I HAVE EVER SEEN.
SSHH
IT'S A SIGN THAT THE NIMBUS TREE HAS WEAKENED.
...THE TREE WILL DIE...
...AND THIS ENTIRE AREA WILL GET SWEPT AWAY BY FLOOD.
?!
SIGH
IF THIS KEEPS UP...
OH, NO!
HOW IS THIS HAPPEN-ING?
THERE IS AN ABNORMALITY IN THE TREE.
PERHAPS

...SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO THE AMEFURASHI.
GLANCE
!
SORA?!


IS IT SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER COLLAPSING?


THE AMEFURASHI DWELLS IN A SECLUDED SANCTUARY...
...TO PROTECT THE TREE AND HERSELF FROM THE EVIL SPIRITS.
THE NIMBUS TREE AND THE AMEFURASHI ACT AS ONE.
THEY INFLUENCE EACH OTHER.

FLINCH
!!
OR SHE MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HARM.
PERHAPS, SOMEONE DISOBEYED...
...AND APPROACHED HER.
IS IT BECAUSE I CLIMBED THAT TREE?
AM I THAT EVIL?!
AIIEE
EEE
WAS IT ME?
WAS...
IT'S BECAUSE THEY APPROACHED HER.
UNH...
THUGS
IT'S THOSE THUGS!
!
GASP
WAIT A MINUTE.
SORA COLLAPSED AFTER SHE CAME HERE.

IT'S CALL-ING ME.
!
SORA!
WHERE AM I?
UGH.
?!
HOP
I HAVE TO GO!
SWAY
!
I'M AME—
YOU KNOW WHERE!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WAIT, SORA.

...HAVE TIME.
I DON'T...
CLENCH
HUFF
SORA, YOU STILL LOOK PALE.
YOU SHOULD REST—
I CAN'T!
WHOA!
SWOOO
!
.....?
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
WAIT...
...SORA!!
HEY!
DASH
!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

SHFF

THE BARRIER HAS WEAKENED.
I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE THE TREE DIES!

BAH

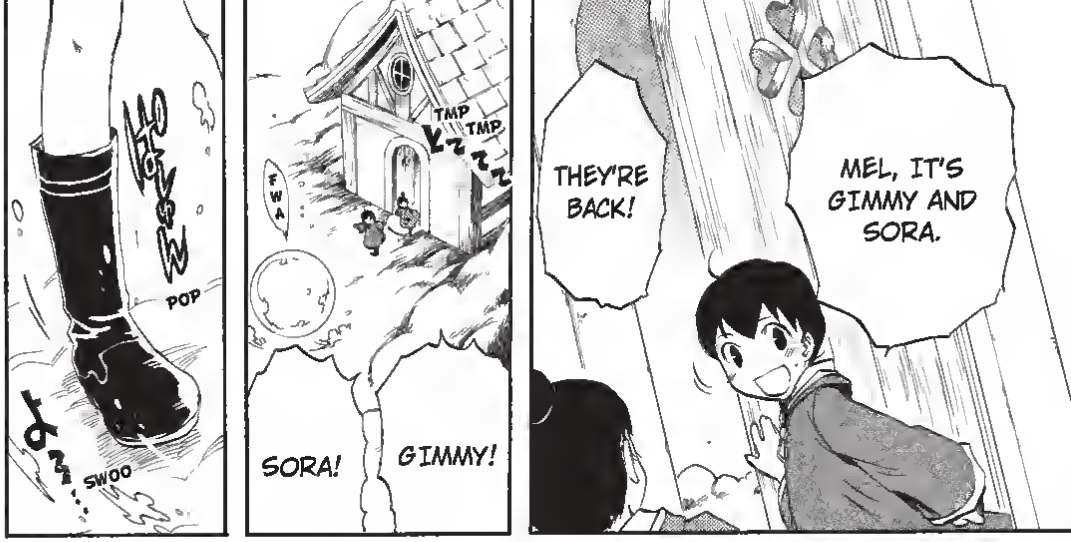
!!
POA
AA

?!
HEY!
I'M GOING WITH YOU.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT MEL AND MIL.

FWAA
.....!!
SSHH
...WAS THAT GIRL?
WHO ON EARTH...
GASP
I WILL HAVE MEN PILE UP SOME SANDBAGS.
OH, I MUST DO SOME-THING.
POAAA

POA
AAA
WHAT'S THIS?
THERE ARE SPOTS ON THE CLOUD LEAVES.
MUMBLE
IT'S MY FAULT.
IT'S BECAUSE...
...I LEFT THE TREE WITHOUT MUCH THOUGHT.

HEY, LOOK.
IT STARTED WITH ME CLIMBING THE TREE.
IT'S, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
HEY! YOU SEE, SORA.
あせ FLUSTER
あせ FLUSTER
SNIFF
THAT'S RIGHT!
HUH?
GLARE
OUCH! YOU'RE TOO QUICK TO SHIFT THE BLAME ONTO ME!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, YOU PEST!
RAHH
AH!


POP
SWOO
TMP
TMP
FWA
SORA!
GIMMY!
THEY'RE BACK!
MEL, IT'S GIMMY AND SORA.

SORA!
SLUMP
!

OH, YES!
!
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL?
I'M ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE BURNING UP.

WE WERE WALKING AND IT SUDDENLY GOT DARK.
WHEN WE LOOKED DOWN THE TREE...
...THERE WAS A BIG CATERPILLAR.
!!
THERE IS A PEST.
BAH
SORA!
GLUK
AUGH!
OH, NO!
THE NIMBUS TREE AND THE AMEFURASHI ACT AS ONE.
I HAVE TO GO...
WHEN SORA GROWS WEAK, THE TREE WITHERS.
IS THAT HOW IT GOT A PEST?
SWOO
NO, SORA! YOU'RE—
SNATCH
OUT OF MY WAY!

MOVE IT!
IF, IF I DON'T DO SOME-THING...
...THE TREE WILL...!
!!
SNATCH
TEARY
.....?
HUH?
I'LL...

I'LL...
...GET RID OF IT FOR YOU!
DOM
NO...

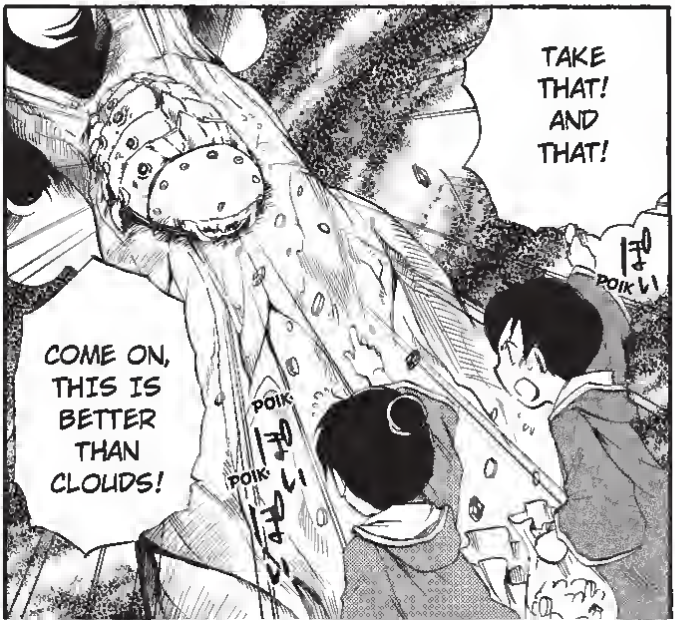
!
WE'LL GO WITH YOU.
GIMMY!
WHY WOULD YOU—
SWOO
NO WAY.
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
COME OVER HERE, SORA.
HEY! LISTEN!
I'LL GO GET SOME POSSIBLE WEAPONS.
NOD
OKAY.
SILENCE
HA!
.....
BAM
SEE YA!

A PEST...
HAA
...EXTER-MINATING A PEST?
THAT'S TOO MUCH... FOR A JOKE.
DON'T KID—
CLENCH
GIMMY!
IT'S OVER THERE!
WHAT?

DOM
EEK
IT'S HUGE!
IT'S EATING THE LEAF.
LOOK!
GNAW
GNAW
GASP
!
G-GIMMY...
自爆。
SELF ATTACK
SMACK
YEOW!
STO—
SHRUP
SHRUP
SHRUP
HEY!

INCH
INCH
!!
GNAW
IT'S COMING THIS WAY!
ZAPF
COOKIE ATTACK!
TAKE THAT!
?!

M-MEL AND MIL, THAT'S NOT—
LET'S TRY THIS!


TAKE THAT! AND THAT!
POIK
POIK
POIK
COME ON, THIS IS BETTER THAN CLOUDS!

WUMP
ARGH!
AH!
SLIP
?!
THAT WON'T WORK, EITHER.
CANDY STOR—
.....!!
FLASH
COME HERE A SEC!
?
?
HOP
FIRST...
CLUTCH
THUMP
...USE THIS BOX AS A SKATEBOARD.

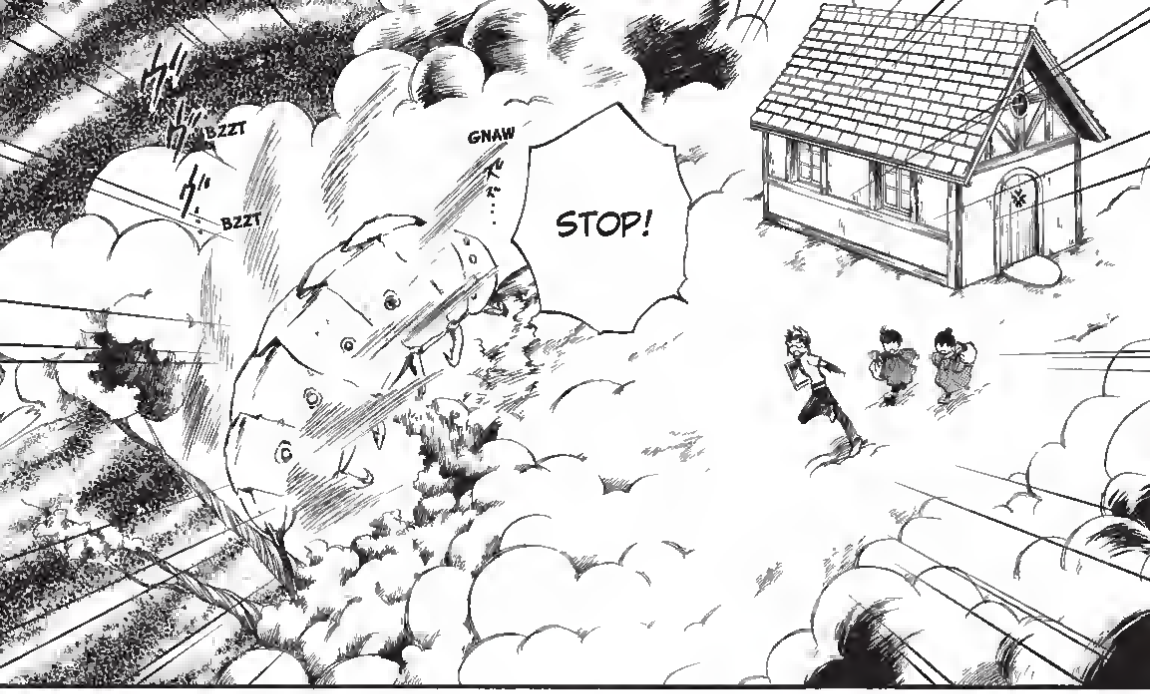
GAIN SOME SPEED.
VWOOSH
VWOOSH
VWOOSH
WHAM
SLAM INTO IT!
IT LOST ITS BALANCE.
NOW'S THE CHANCE, MEL AND MIL!

CANDY STORM!!
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
FLIP
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
!!
SSSS
SWAY
TUMBLE

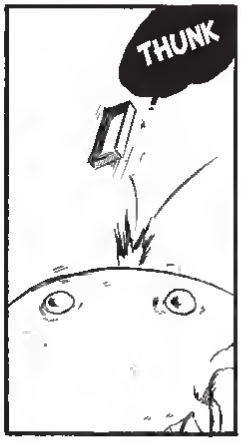
SLIP
WHOOOSH
YAY, IT FELL!
NOW WE'RE—
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
—?

BAH
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
WHAT?
?!
IT'S NOT FAIR THAT IT COULD FLY!
IT'S GOT WINGS?
YES, NO FAIR!
BZZT
BZZT
BZZT
!

OH, NO!
SORA'S HOUSE IS UP THERE.
IT'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF IT EATS THAT CLOUD!
BZZT
BZZT
OUCHIE...
THRUMP
LET'S GO BACK. WE HAVE TO STOP IT.
WHOA!
TMP
TMP
TMP
.....?
HURRY!


BZZT
BZZT
GNAW
STOP!

GLARE

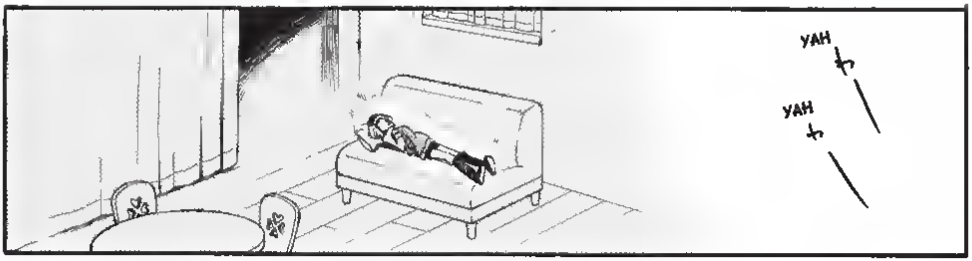

THUNK

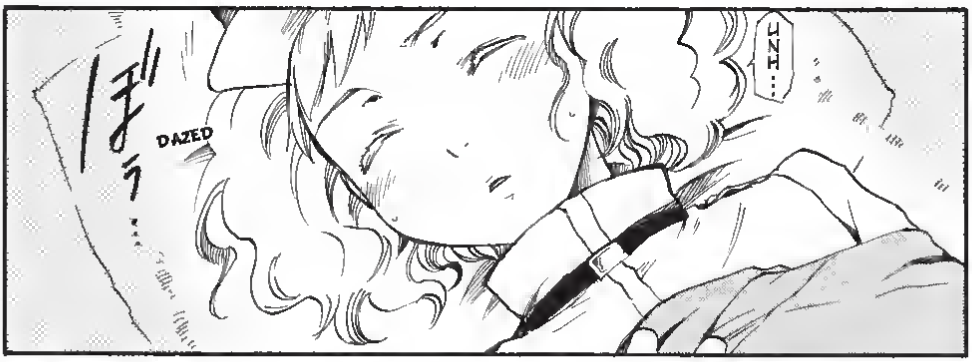
VWOOSH
SHOO!

BUT WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING.
IT'S NOT WORKING!

OKAY.
TMP
YES, IF I COULD CUT OFF THE WINGS.
BZZZT
THE WINGS!
I GUESS I WON'T HAVE IT THAT EASY.
SWOO
AGH.
GIMMY.
THROB THROB
SMACK
WHOA!
SWISH
BUT...
GRR

...GET ANY CLOSER!
WE WON'T LET YOU...
...PROTECT SORA...
WE MUST...
...AND THIS TREE!

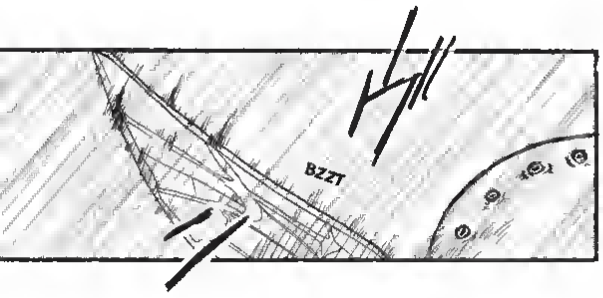




I FEEL...

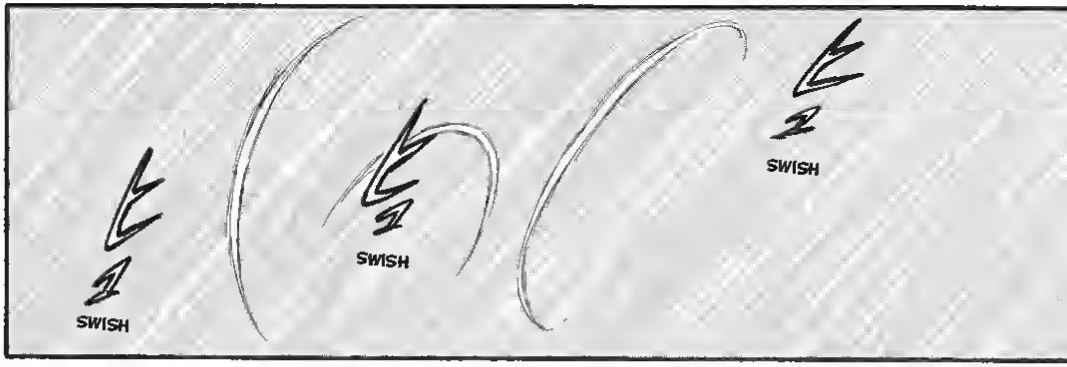
...?

...SOMETHING WARM.



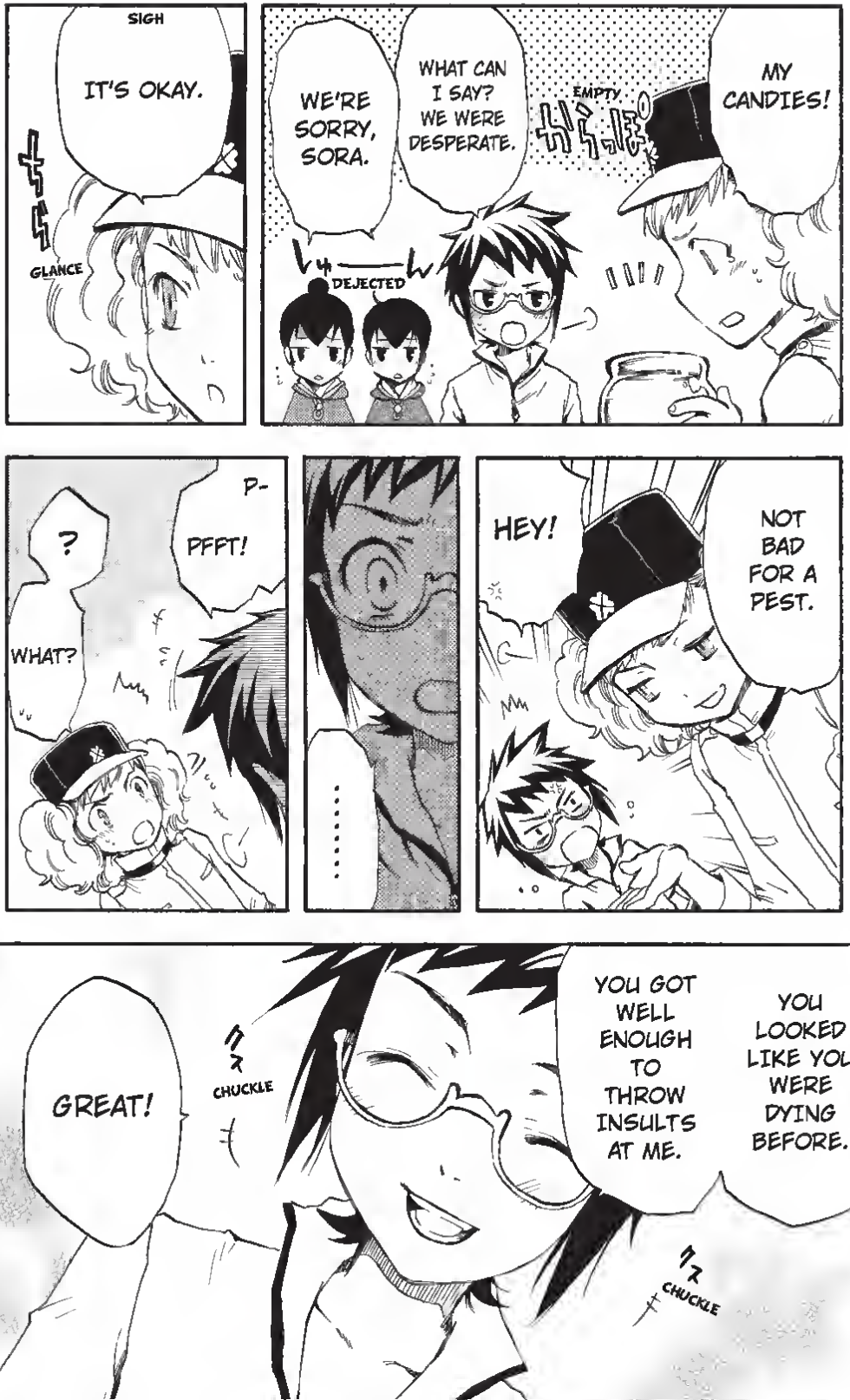
SNATCH
OH, NO!
THE SWITCH!
SMACK

HUH?


SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

FLAP
THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO.
...LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY ANYMORE.
I WON'T...
I'M GOING TO PUNISH YOU. ♡

WHOOSH
TMP
CRASH
WHAM
HEY!
SEE YOU LATER!


SIGH
IT'S OKAY.
GLANCE
WE'RE SORRY, SORA.
WHAT CAN I SAY? WE WERE DESPERATE.
EMPTY
MY CANDIES!
DEJECTED
P-
PFFT!
?
WHAT?
HEY!
NOT BAD FOR A PEST.
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE DYING BEFORE.
YOU GOT WELL ENOUGH TO THROW INSULTS AT ME.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
GREAT!

HUH?
THANK...
?
THANK?
S-
SORT OF.
ER...
...WELL.
THANK...

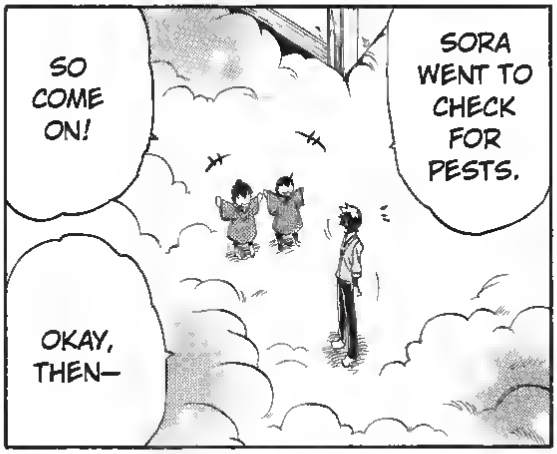
HAH?
FWIP
I'M TIRED OF CALLING YOU A PEST SO I'LL CALL YOU AN "ANT" FROM NOW ON!
I TOLD YOU I'M A HUMAN.
MY NAME IS GIMMY!
WHY NOT? AN "ANT" AND GIMMY, SAME THING!
NO, THEY'RE NOT!
RAH
SIGH
Drop 4 The End

NOT ONLY MEL AND MIL ARE MISSING BUT SO IS GIMMY.
MISTER.
THE RAIN'S BEEN WEIRD, TOO. WHAT'S GOING ON?
MUTTER
I SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE.
MUTTER
MISTER.
YOU WITH A GOATEE.
GRR
GRR
GRR
SHFF
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A "GOATEE"?
GRR
.....!
I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.
FEEL FREE TO...
...ASK ME ANYTHING. ♡
SNAP

Drop 5 Two Shadows

WE'RE ABOVE THE CLOUDS.
...WE'RE ON TOP OF THE NIMBUS TREE WHERE THE GODDESS LIVES.
DAZED
TO BE PRECISE...
AHH!
IT'S NICE AND COLD.
HEY!

GIMMY!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
HOP
WHY AM I MAKING MYSELF AT HOME?


SO COME ON!
SORA WENT TO CHECK FOR PESTS.
OKAY, THEN—

LET'S PLAY!
MEL AND MIL.
OH.

BLAH
WHAT GOT US HERE IS THAT ABSURD GODDESS WHO TOOK YOU HOSTAGE.
BLAH
WE SHOULDN'T BE PLAYING AROUND NOW.
BLAH
BUT...

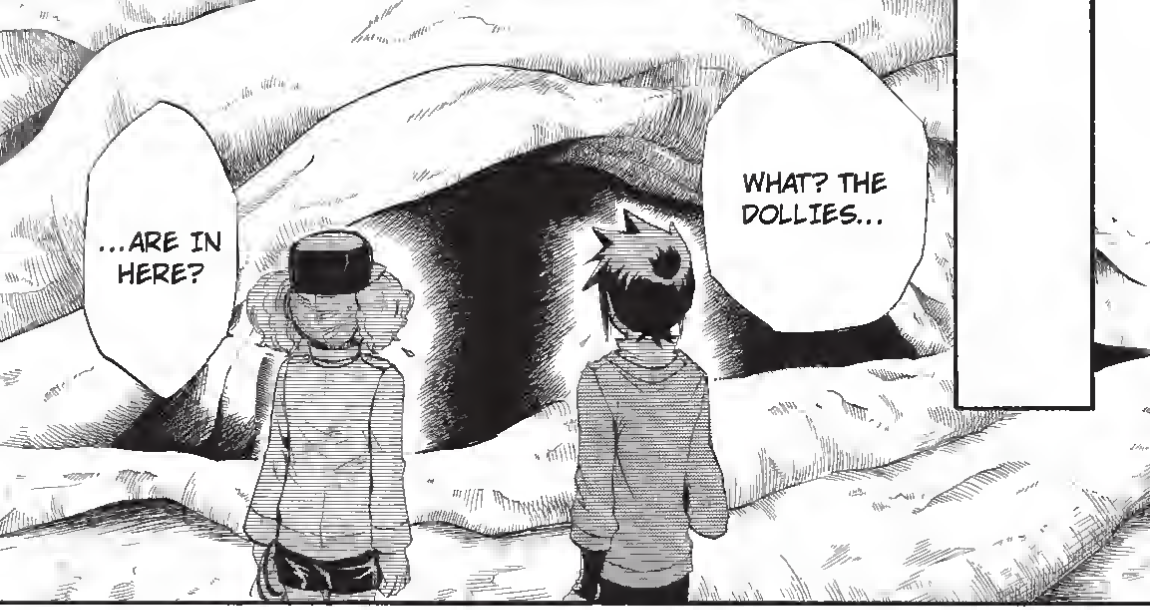
GR
?
NO, WE CAN'T!
GRR

SOME-
THING
NEAT?
?
YUP!
♪
GRIN
WE FOUND
SOMETHING
NEAT.
IS
THIS...
...A TREE
CAVITY?
HUH?
IT LOOKS
DEEP.
LET'S GO
INSIDE!
I FOUND
IT THE
OTHER
DAY.

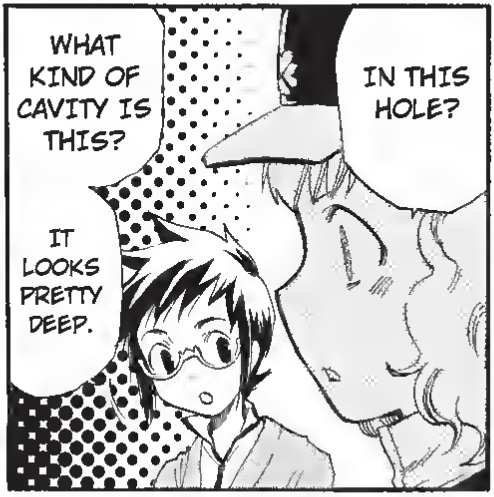
WAIT, YOU TWO!
HEY!
YAY, WE'RE GOING EXPLORING! ♡
HOP
ぴょい
OKAY, LET'S GO!
WHO KNOWS WHAT'S IN THERE!
MARCH
てくてく
MARCH
てくてく
COME BACK!
AH!
SLUMP
がくん
HUH?

WAHHHHH
WAHHH!
!!!
WHAT THE!
POOF
BAH
OH?
TUG
WH- WHAT IS IT?
SOME- THING GOT CAUGHT ON...
WHOOSH
...ME!

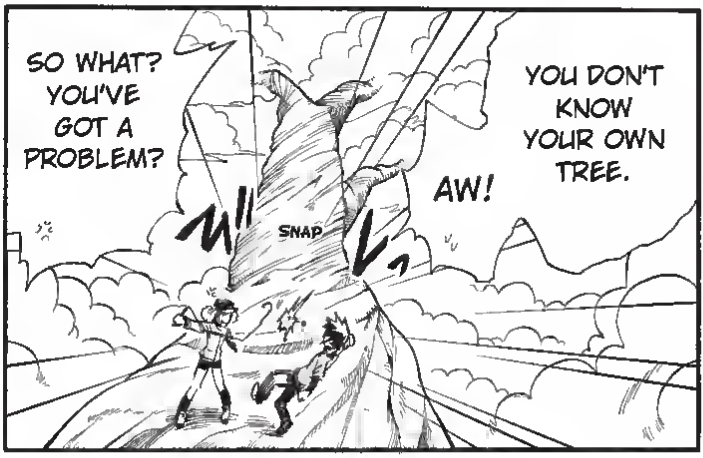
WAHH!
WHOOSH
!
THUMP
SLUMP
SHRUP
JEEZ, I THOUGHT IT WAS ANOTHER PEST.
DON'T GO MAKING YOURSELF TOO COMFY!
SORA!


...ARE IN HERE?
WHAT? THE DOLLIES...

DON'T TELL ME.
SILENCE


WHAT KIND OF CAVITY IS THIS?
IT LOOKS PRETTY DEEP.
IN THIS HOLE?

BESIDES
BE...
FWIP


SO WHAT? YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM?
SNAP
AW!
YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN TREE.

YES.
THIS IS MY TREE.
?
DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY.
HUMPH
THIS CAVITY WASN'T HERE BEFORE. HOW WOULD I KNOW?
BAH
HEY! SORA?
WE WILL GO INSIDE TO FIND OUT!
EEP!
SLIP
!
WAIT A MINUTE. IT'S DANGE—
SWISH

TUG
WHOA!
WHAP
WHAT?
WAHH!
SPLITCH
AHHHH!
SHLOOOOMP
AHH..
...AHH.
AH!
FOOSH

FROOSH
WAHHHHH!
WHOA!
WE'RE FALLING!
!!
AUGH!
POA
OOSH
WHOO
OOSH

UH-OH!
HUH?
POP
THIS...
...WILL DO...
!
WAHHHHH!
WUMPP
EEEEEEP!
EEP!
FOOSH
WHAT?
ARE THESE NIMBUS LEAVES DEFECTIVE?
I CAN'T CONTROL THEM THAT WELL.
UUHH...
UUNNNH.

ANYWAY...
SO WHAT? YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM?
SMACK
OW!
SO YOU CAN'T USE YOUR POWER—
HM? IT'S BRIGHT FOR INSIDE A TREE.
IT'S TOO BLURRY TO SEE UP OR DOWN WITH THE CLOUDS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S A SPACE IN THIS TREE.

MEL! MIL!
WHERE ARE YOU?
YOO-HOO!
WE NEED TO FIND MEL AND MIL.
THEY MUST HAVE FALLEN DOWN HERE.
AND NOW IT'S GETTING DARK.
I THOUGHT OUR VOICES WOULD ECHO, BUT SOUND SEEMS TO GET ABSORBED BY THE CLOUDS.
THEY'RE NOT ANSWERING.
UH-OH
HMM
ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK?
SMACK
?!
BE QUIET! WHAT'S WRONG WITH—
SWOO
SORA?
WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK PALE.

AH!
SWAY
C-
COME ON!
HEY, GIMMY? ANT?
WAHHH
SOB
FLICKER
?
YOU IDIOT!
WAHH
HOW COULD YOU FALL?

POOFF
AH...
HUH?
EEEEEE!!
FOOSH
...I JUST HEARD...
THAT VOICE...
HM?

ARRGHH!
WHUMF
AHHHGH!
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
HAH?
WAIT—
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?
A GHOST! IT'S A GHOST!
CLUTCH
A GHOST?

WHOA!
近
CLOSE
THERE WAS A BIG GHOST!
VOOSH
VOOSH
VOOSH
VOOSH
HEY...
UGH!
SLUMP
SLUMP
SLUMP
SLUMP
I-I SAW A WEIRD SHADOW!
DO SOME-THING ABOUT IT!
IT WAS MUCH BIGGER AND...
!
POOF
POOF
PHEW
MAYBE IT'S ANOTHER PEST.
NO, IT WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
WH-WHAT SHADOW?

AH...
POOFF
THAT'S...
THAT'S HUGE!
IT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLOUDS.

NO...
NO WAY.
NOW WHAT?
!
I CAN'T REACH IT.
WHERE'S YOUR SWITCH?
WHAT?!
SWOO
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
FLUSTER
USE IT TO ATTACK LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO.
I KNOW. SEE THAT BRANCH?
ATTACK!
BAH
SHFF
I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT.

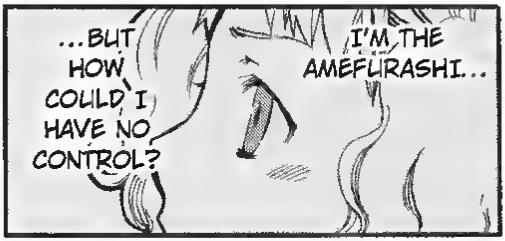
SILENCE
.....
.....
?!
PALE
HUH?
HUH?
VOOSH
HMM.
SORA?
VOOSH
VOOSH
SSS
EEK!

?!
I CAN'T CONTROL THE BRANCH.
WHY? I DON'T GET IT!
びくっ
FLINCH
AIYEE!
ぬ
SWOO
!!!
SWOO
うっ
……?
OW, OW!
OUCH!
HEY!
NOOO! THERE IS ANOTHER MONSTER. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THEM?
THERE ARE TWO!
バシ
WHACK
バシ
WHACK
ガーン
SHOCK

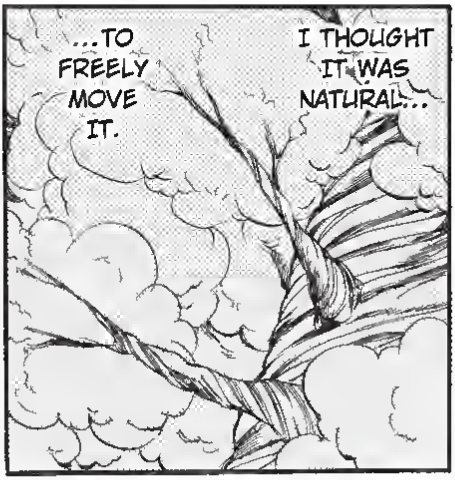
.....?!
THAT SILHOUETTE LOOKS FAMILIAR.
AAAG
SWOO
.....
OH.
WHAT?
I SEE.
SIGH
I GET IT NOW.
TUG
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING ABOUT?
HAH?

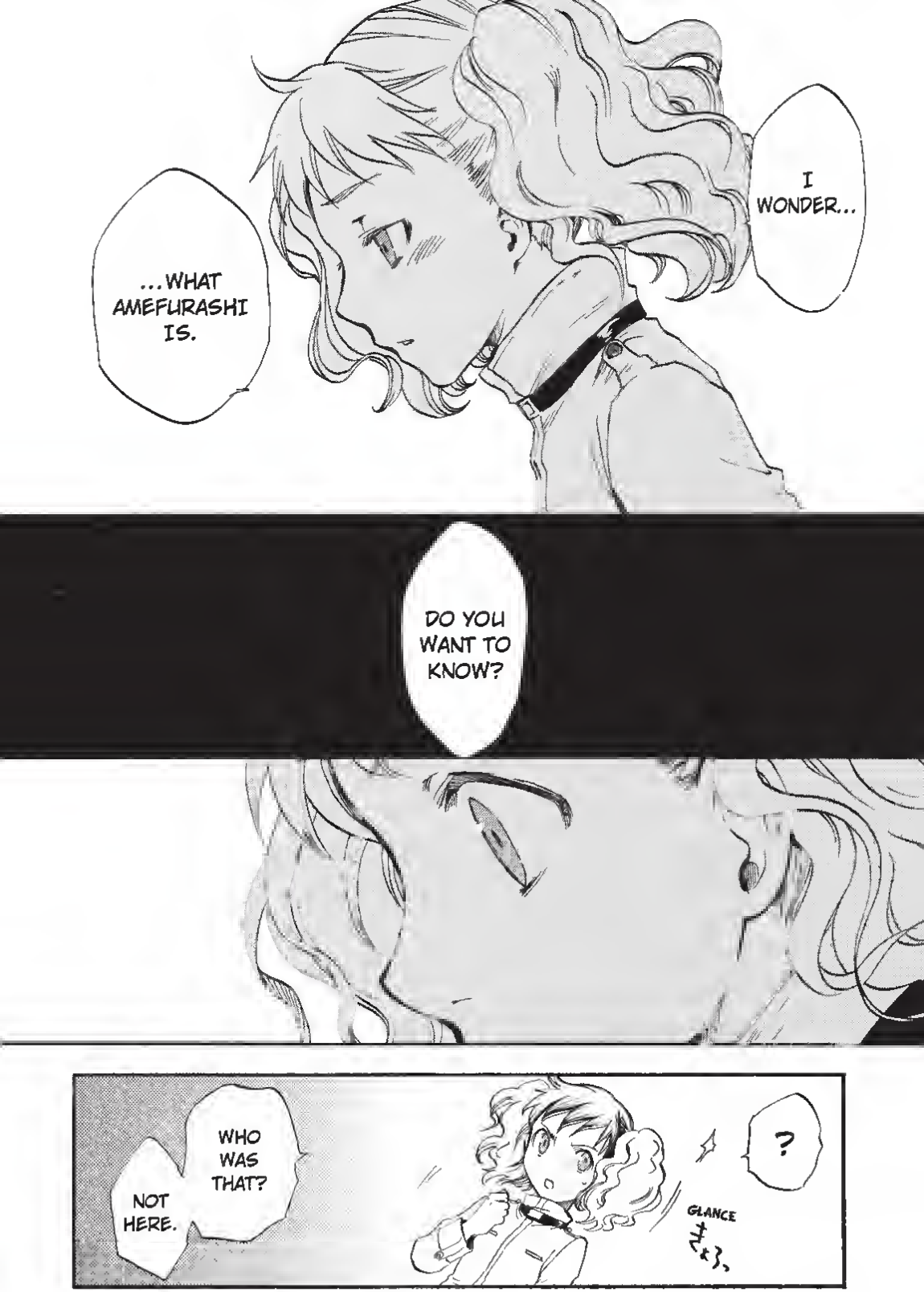
...AND THEY'RE NEAR IT.
MAYBE THERE'S A SOURCE OF LIGHT...
STUNNED
...THE DOLLIES?
BUT THEY'RE SO BIG.
THAT SHADOW BELONGS TO...
...WE'D HAVE TO FOLLOW ALONG THE CLOUDS ON FOOT.
WITHOUT YOUR POWER..
BUT HOW FAR UP COULD THEY BE?
SCUFF
SCUFF
IS SHE UPSET?
SSS
UH...
SORA?

IT'S MY TREE...

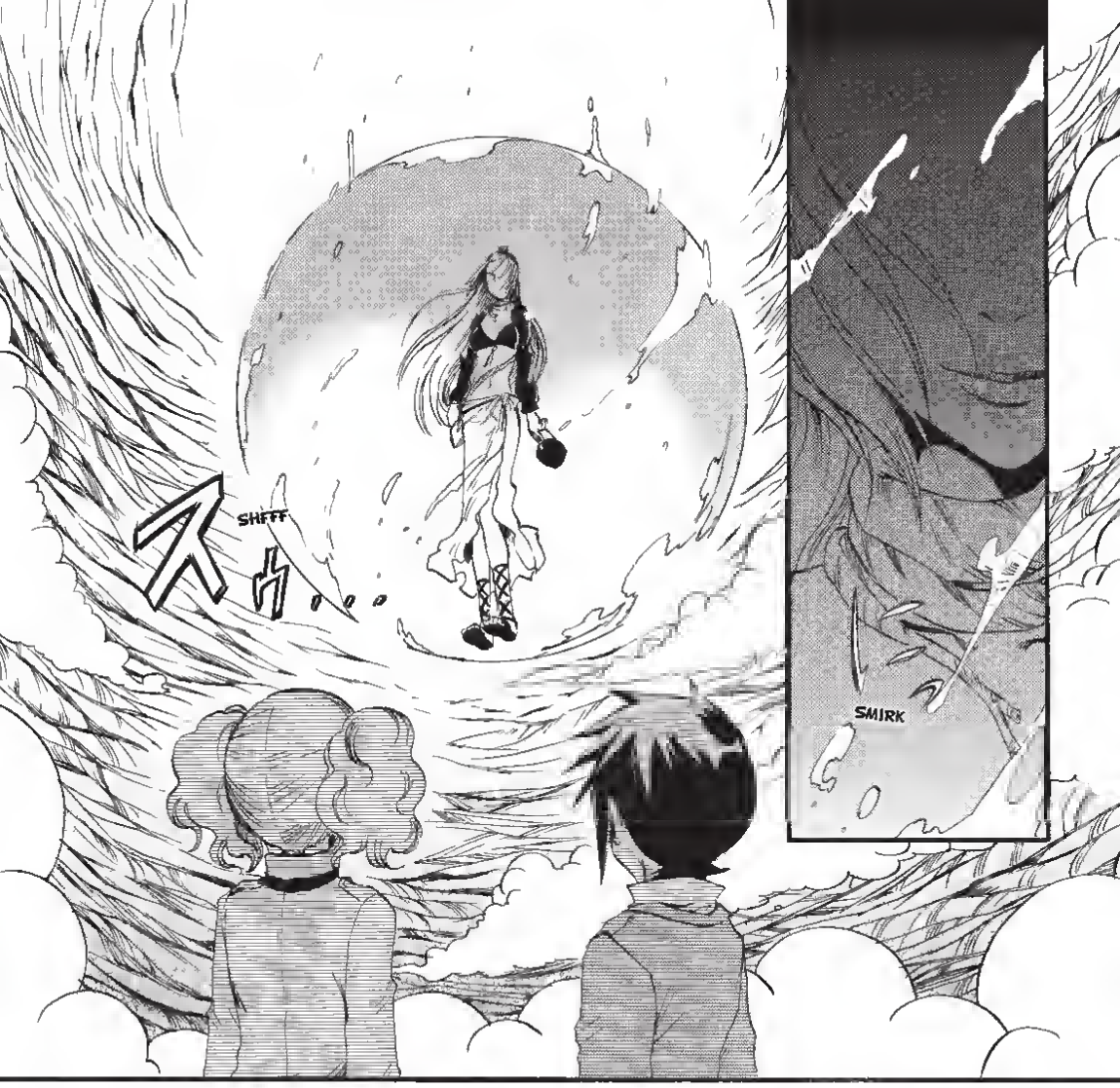


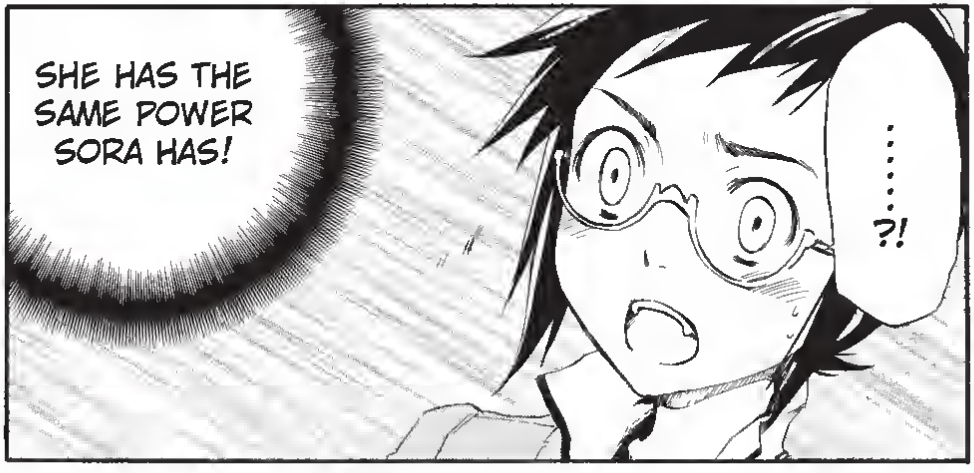
I WONDER...

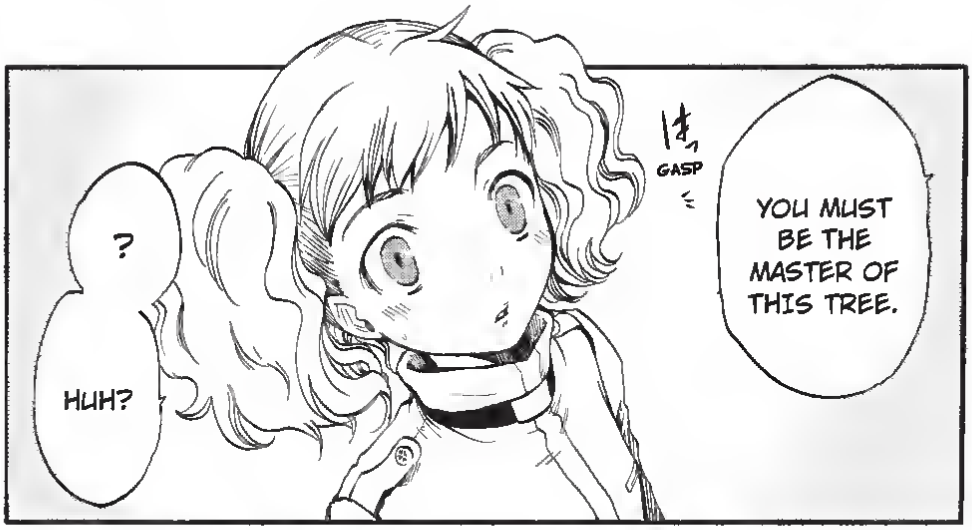


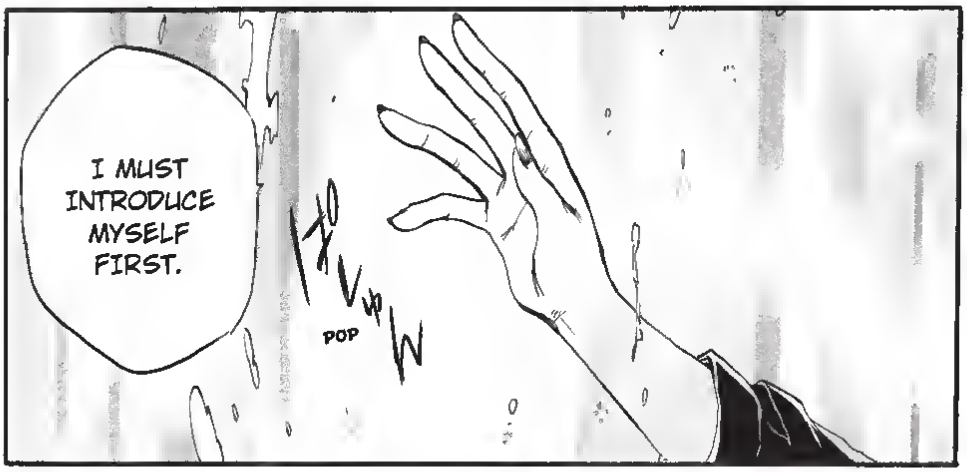

I WONDER...
...WHAT AMEFURASHI IS.
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
?
GLANCE
WHO WAS THAT?
NOT HERE.

OVER HERE.
HUH?
WHAT DID I DO?
GLARE
ギロリ
I BET IT WAS YOU!
131
FWAA
わ
WHAT?
HUH?

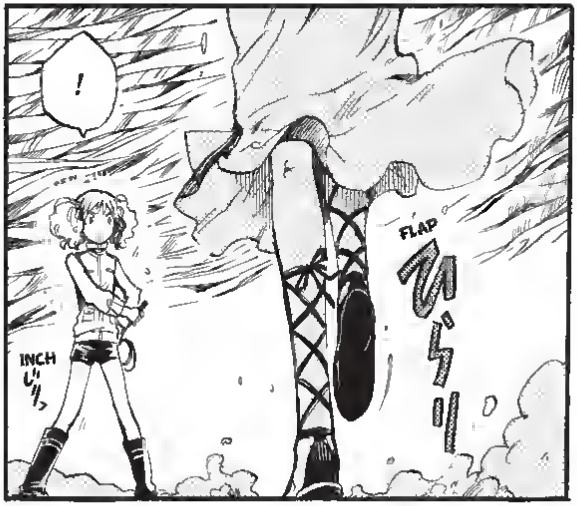

SHFFF
SMIRK

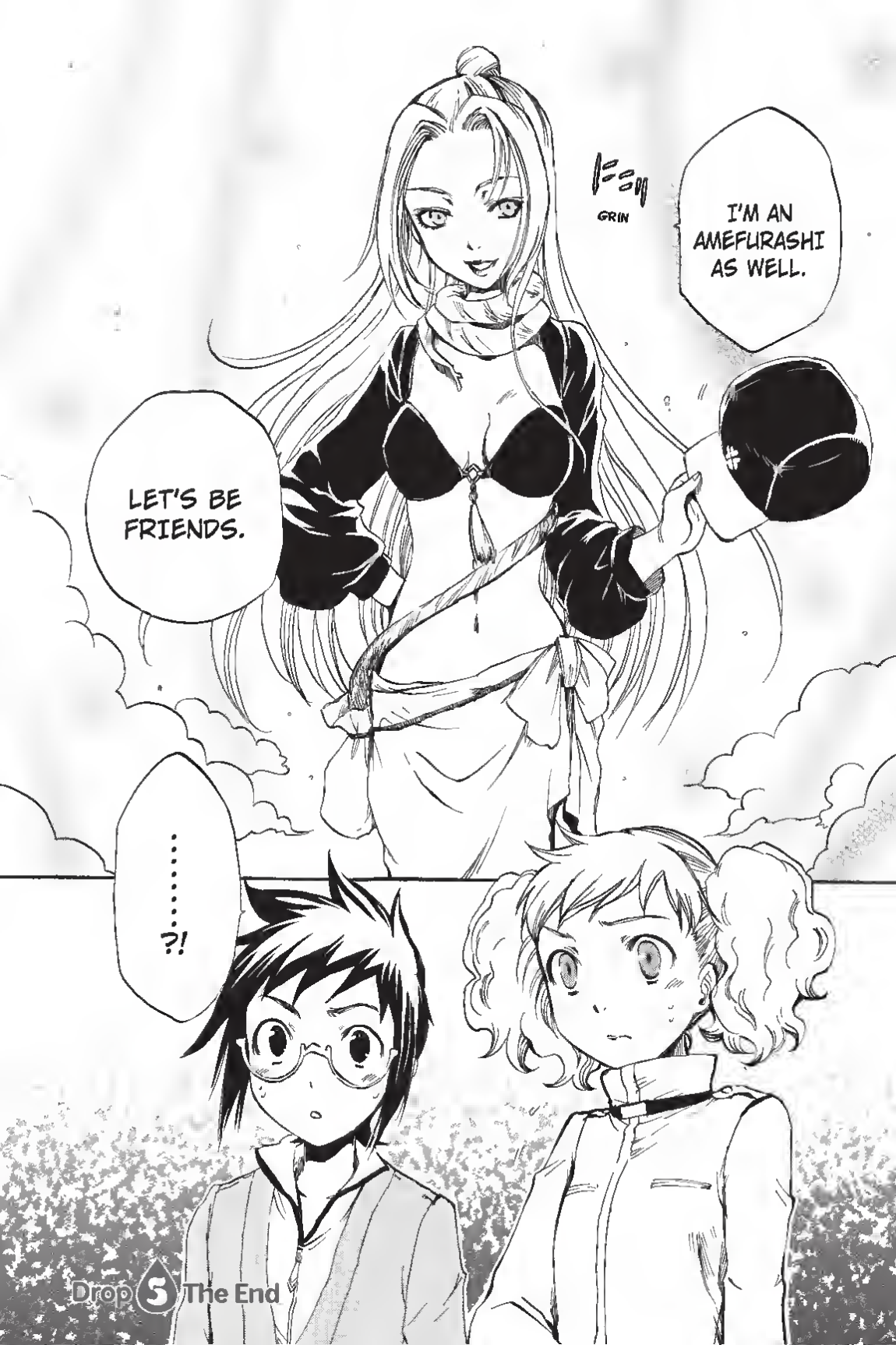

SHE HAS THE SAME POWER SORA HAS!
.....?!

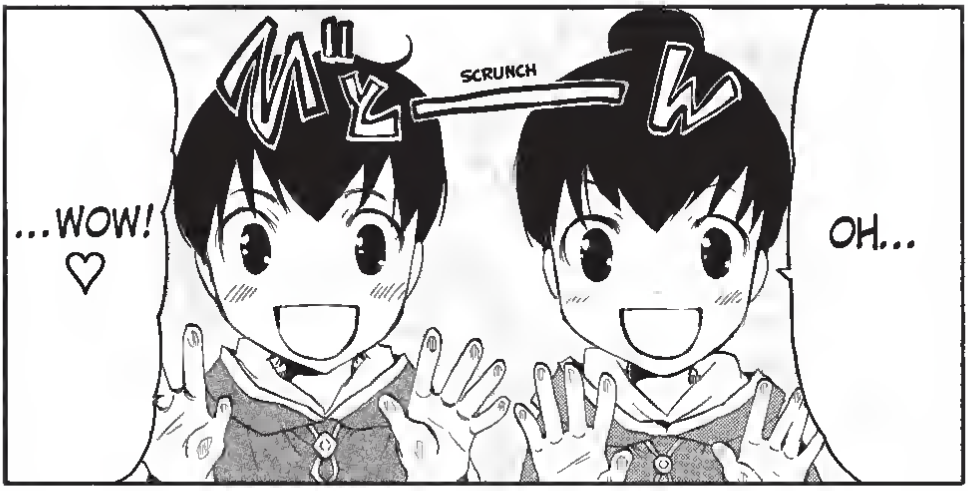

GASP
YOU MUST BE THE MASTER OF THIS TREE.
?
HUH?


I MUST INTRODUCE MYSELF FIRST.
POP

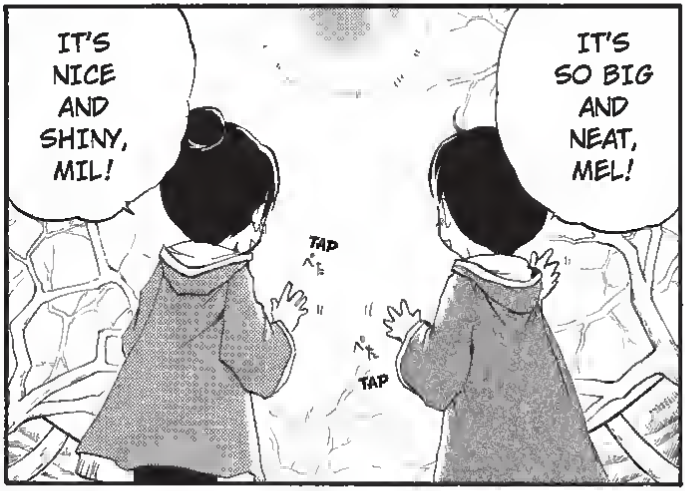
I'M CIEL.

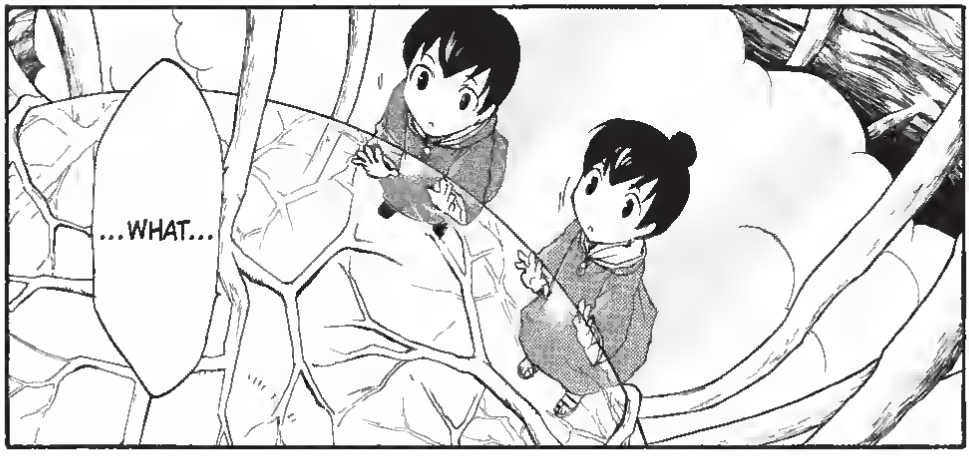

!
FLAP
INCH


GRIN
I'M AN AMEFURASHI AS WELL.
LET'S BE FRIENDS.
.....?!


SCRUNCH
...WOW!
♡
OH...

BUT...


IT'S NICE AND SHINY, MIL!
IT'S SO BIG AND NEAT, MEL!
TAP
TAP

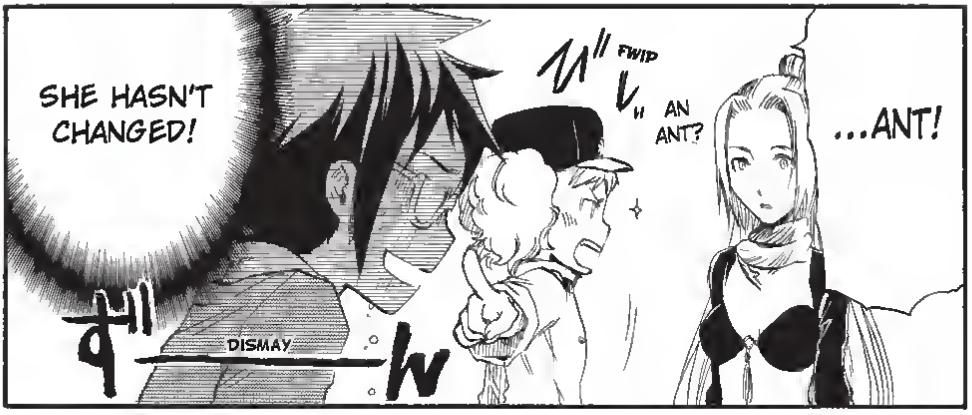

...WHAT...

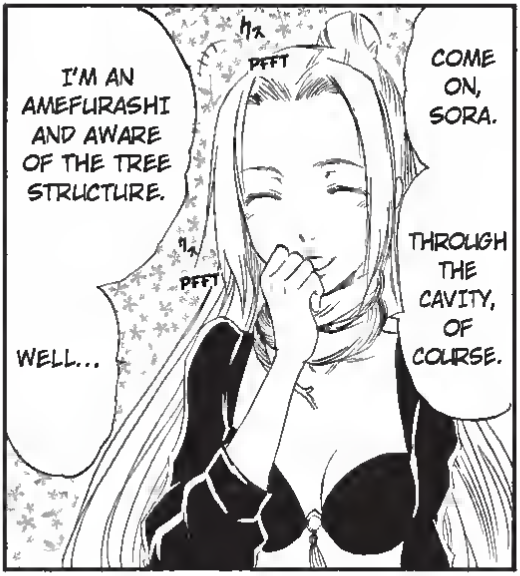
ヲォ
POAA
ォ
...ON EARTH IS THIS?
オオ
AA

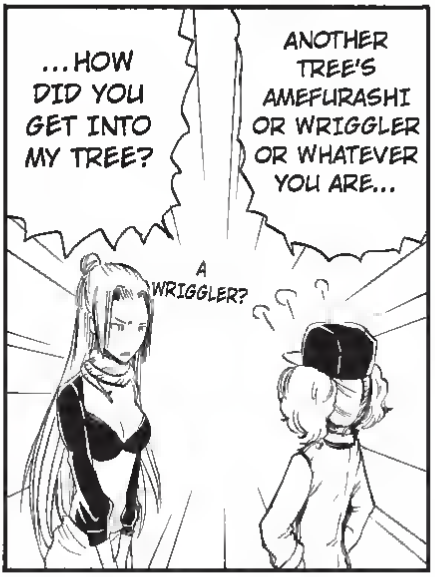
Drop 6 The Lost Girl

WHAT?
JUST LIKE ME?
SHE'S AN AMEFU-RASHI?
DOES THIS BELONG TO YOU?
GRIN
YES.
LITTLE MASTER?

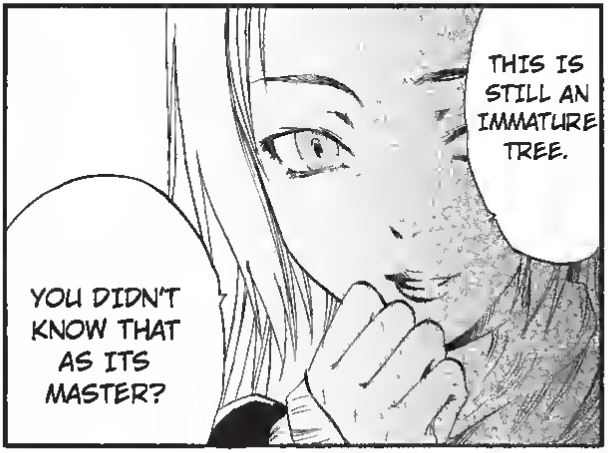
HUH?
SHOCK
PEST
WHAT'S THAT PEST?
GOOD, BY THE WAY...
THANK YOU.
YES.
I'M SORA.
AREN'T YOU BEING RUDE TO SOMEONE YOU JUST MET?
ZOOM
YOU SAID YOU'RE CIEL?
WHY DOES IT ALWAYS COME TO THAT?
RAH
SHFF
SORA...
HE IS A REAL...
HE IS NOT A PEST.

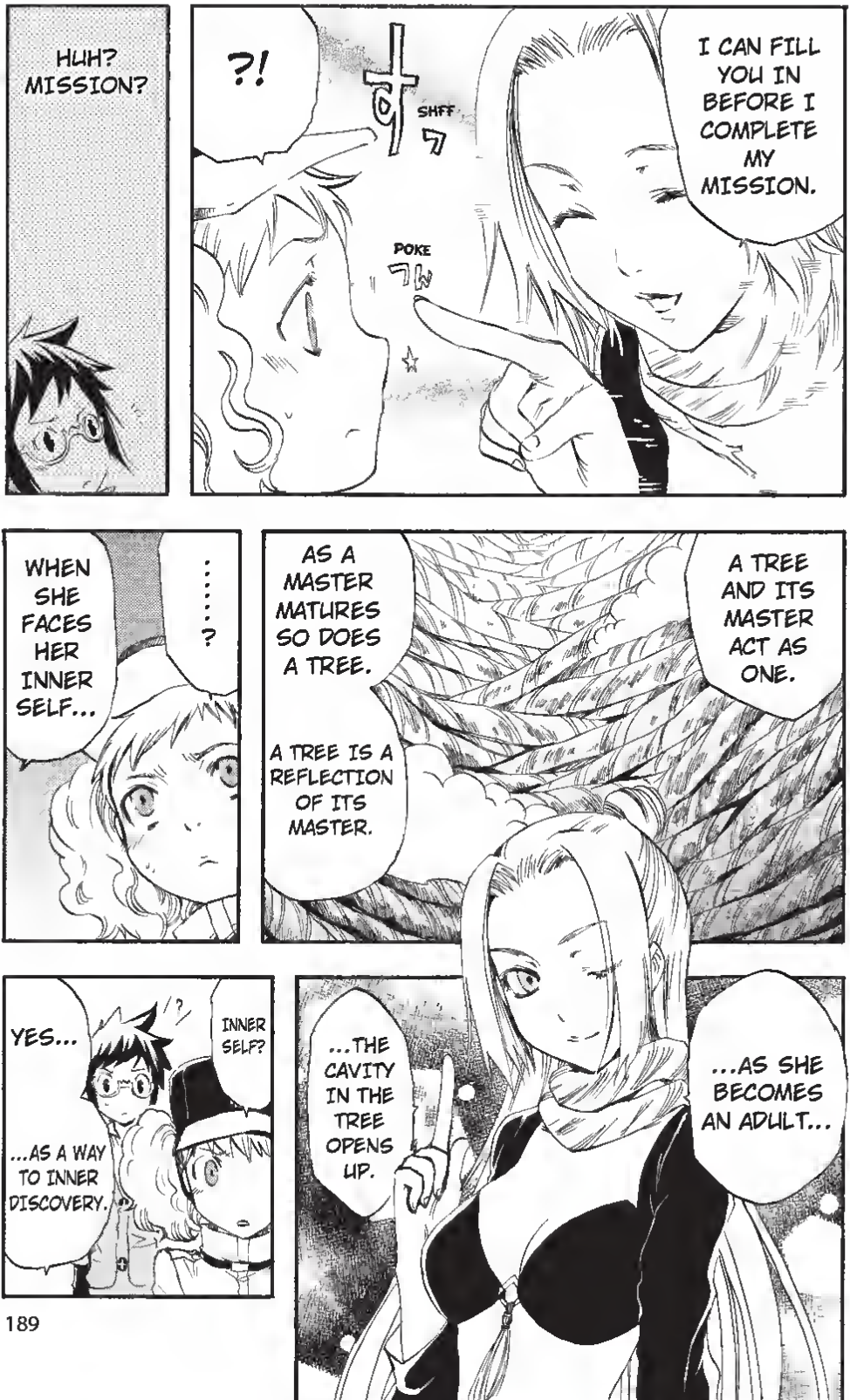

SHE HASN'T CHANGED!
DISMAY
FWIP
AN ANT?
...ANT!

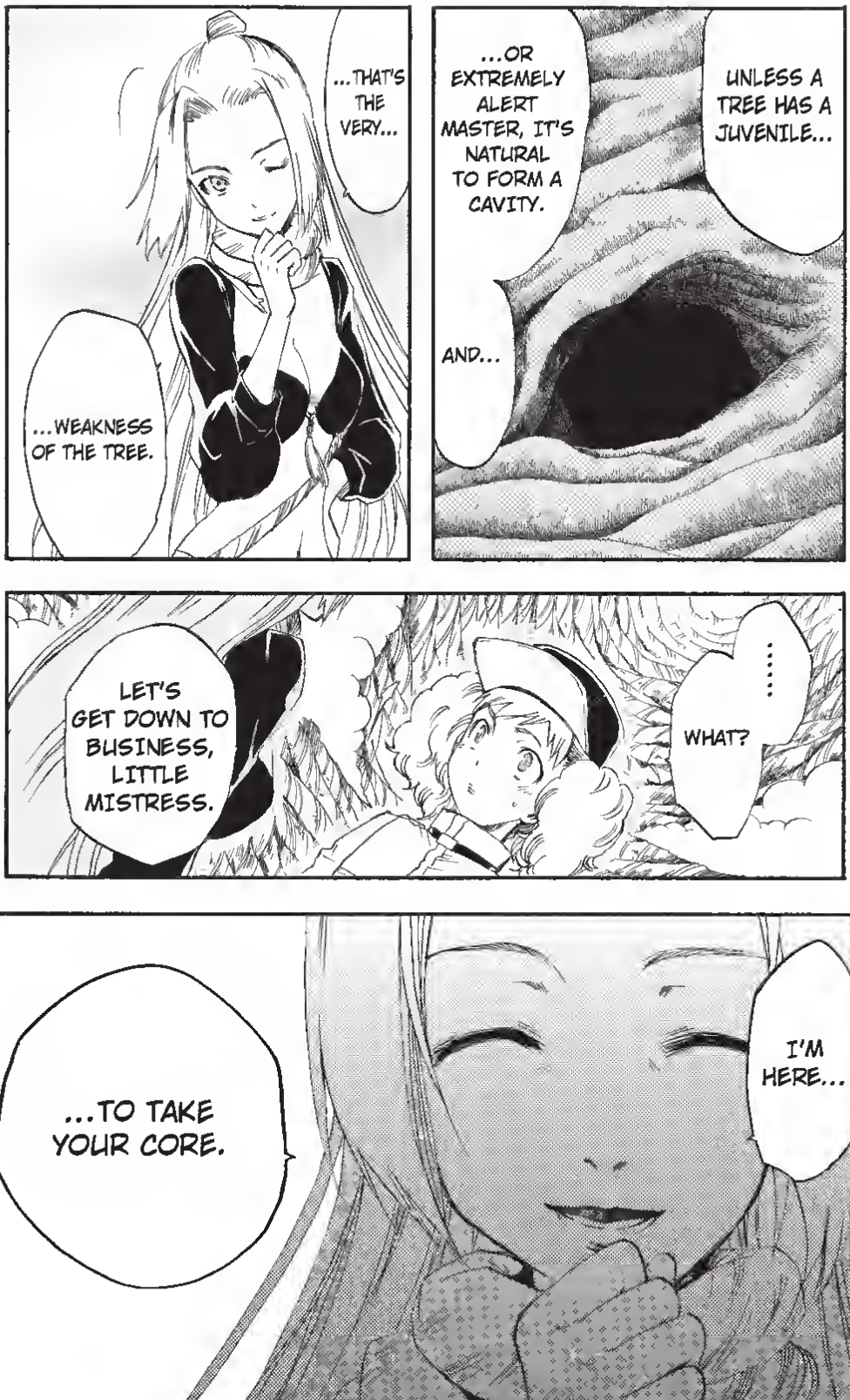

I'M AN AMEFURASHI AND AWARE OF THE TREE STRUCTURE.
PFFT
PFFT
WELL...
COME ON, SORA.
THROUGH THE CAVITY, OF COURSE.


...HOW DID YOU GET INTO MY TREE?
ANOTHER TREE'S AMEFURASHI OR WRIGGLER OR WHATEVER YOU ARE...
A WRIGGLER?

THAT'S NOT TRU—
DEAD ON
ACK!
YOU WANTED TO KNOW EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU?

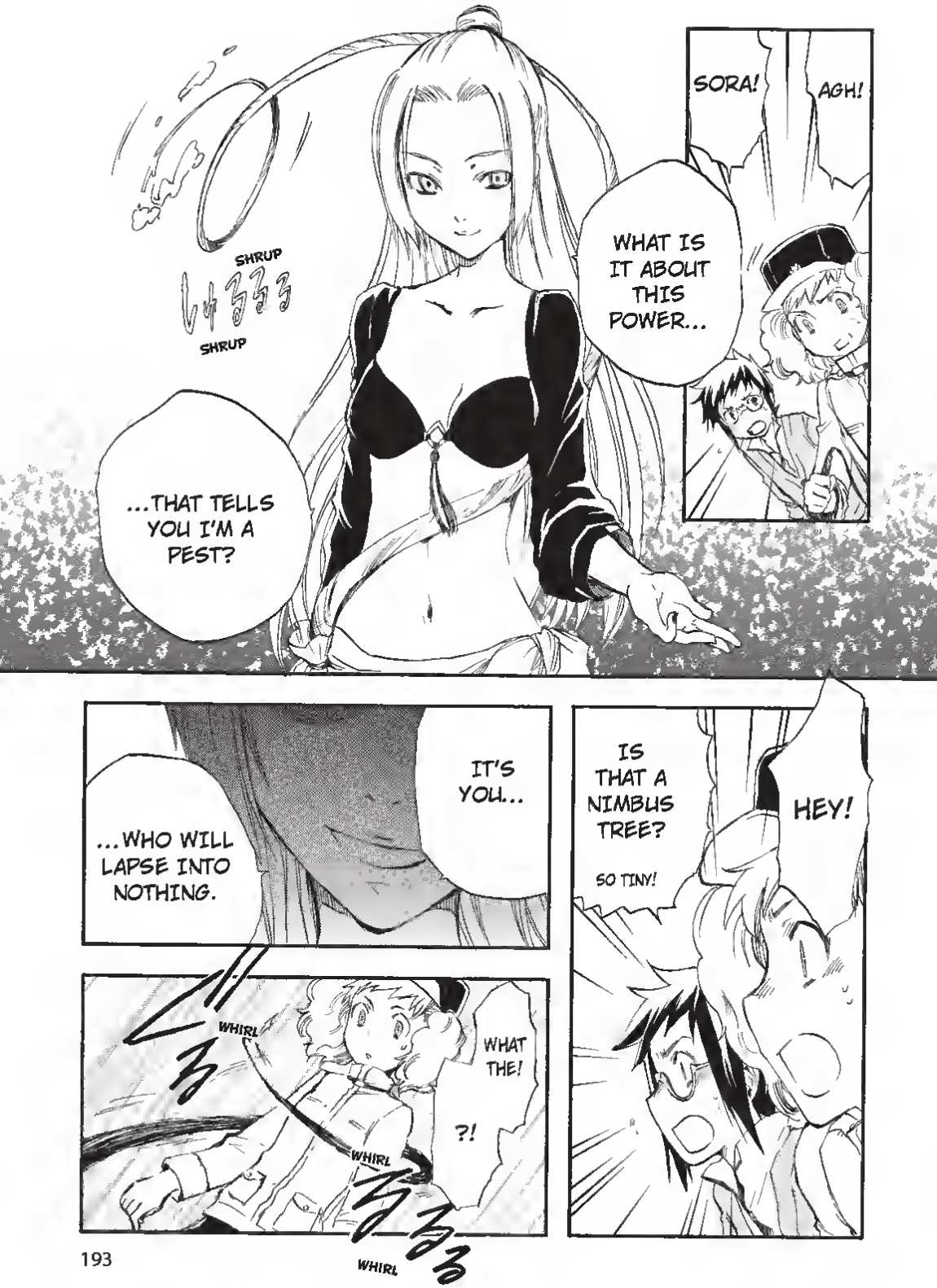

YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT AS ITS MASTER?
THIS IS STILL AN IMMATURE TREE.


HUH? MISSION?
?!
SHFF
POKE
I CAN FILL YOU IN BEFORE I COMPLETE MY MISSION.
WHEN SHE FACES HER INNER SELF...
.....?
AS A MASTER MATURES SO DOES A TREE.
A TREE IS A REFLECTION OF ITS MASTER.
A TREE AND ITS MASTER ACT AS ONE.
YES...
INNER SELF?
?
...AS A WAY TO INNER DISCOVERY.
...THE CAVITY IN THE TREE OPENS UP.
...AS SHE BECOMES AN ADULT...


...THAT'S THE VERY...
...WEAKNESS OF THE TREE.
UNLESS A TREE HAS A JUVENILE...
...OR EXTREMELY ALERT MASTER, IT'S NATURAL TO FORM A CAVITY.
AND...
.....
WHAT?
LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, LITTLE MISTRESS.
I'M HERE...
...TO TAKE YOUR CORE.

YOU...
YOU SAID A "CORE"?
PFFT
YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT A CORE.
A TREE'S HEART.
.....?!
YES. IN SHORT...
...I'M SAYING I WANT THIS TREE.
!

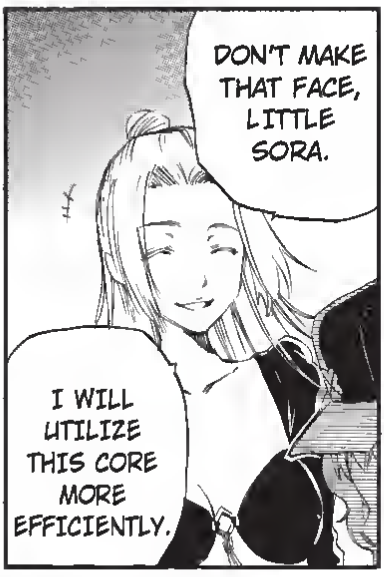
...YOU'RE THE REAL PEST!
SWISH
GO AWAY!
I BET...
SHRUP
UH-OH.
HOW RUDE!
.....
!!
SPING


SORA!
AGH!
WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS POWER...
SHRUP
SHRUP
...THAT TELLS YOU I'M A PEST?
IT'S YOU...
...WHO WILL LAPSE INTO NOTHING.
IS THAT A NIMBUS TREE?
HEY!
SO TINY!
WHIRL
WHIRL
WHIRL
WHAT THE!
?!

AH!
THUMP
!
POA
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
AA
I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
SORA!
GRR
HEY!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
TOP OF THE TREE WHERE THE CORE IS LOCATED.
I BETTER GO AFTER THEM!
I THINK SHE'S IN TROUBLE.
BA-DMP
FWOO
!
STOP!
!!
WOOO
BA-DMP

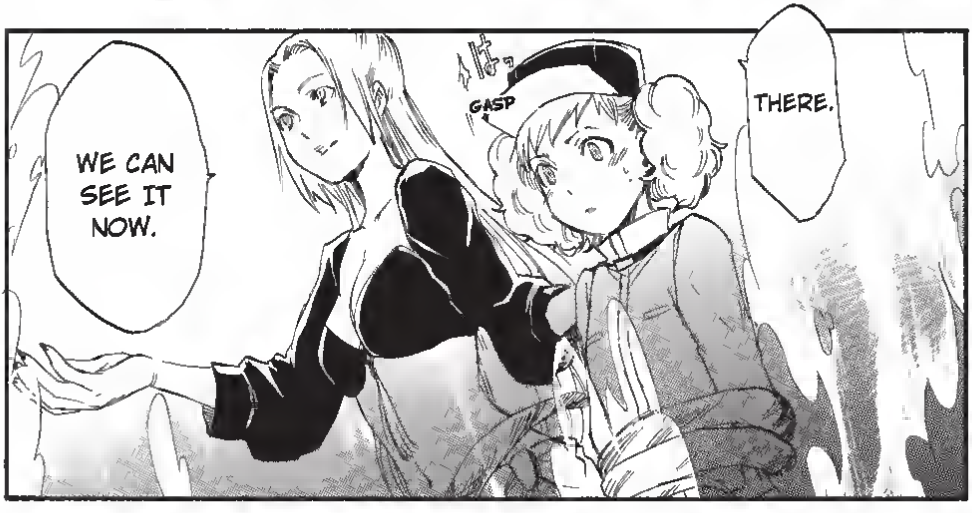
DARN, DID THEY HEAD UPWARD?
HAA
SORAAA!!
TMP
...WHERE MEL AND MIL ARE.
THAT'S PROBABLY...
HOLD IT!!
DASH
DASH
DASH
HEY!

SQUEEZE
?!
I WILL NEVER LET YOU HAVE THE CORE.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THE TREE DIES?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
I TOLD YOU I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.
PFFT
MAYBE...
...YOU SHOULDN'T PUT THE BLAME ON ME.
I CAN—
I BET YOU WISH YOU COULD USE YOUR POWER NOW.


DON'T MAKE THAT FACE, LITTLE SORA.
I WILL UTILIZE THIS CORE MORE EFFICIENTLY.

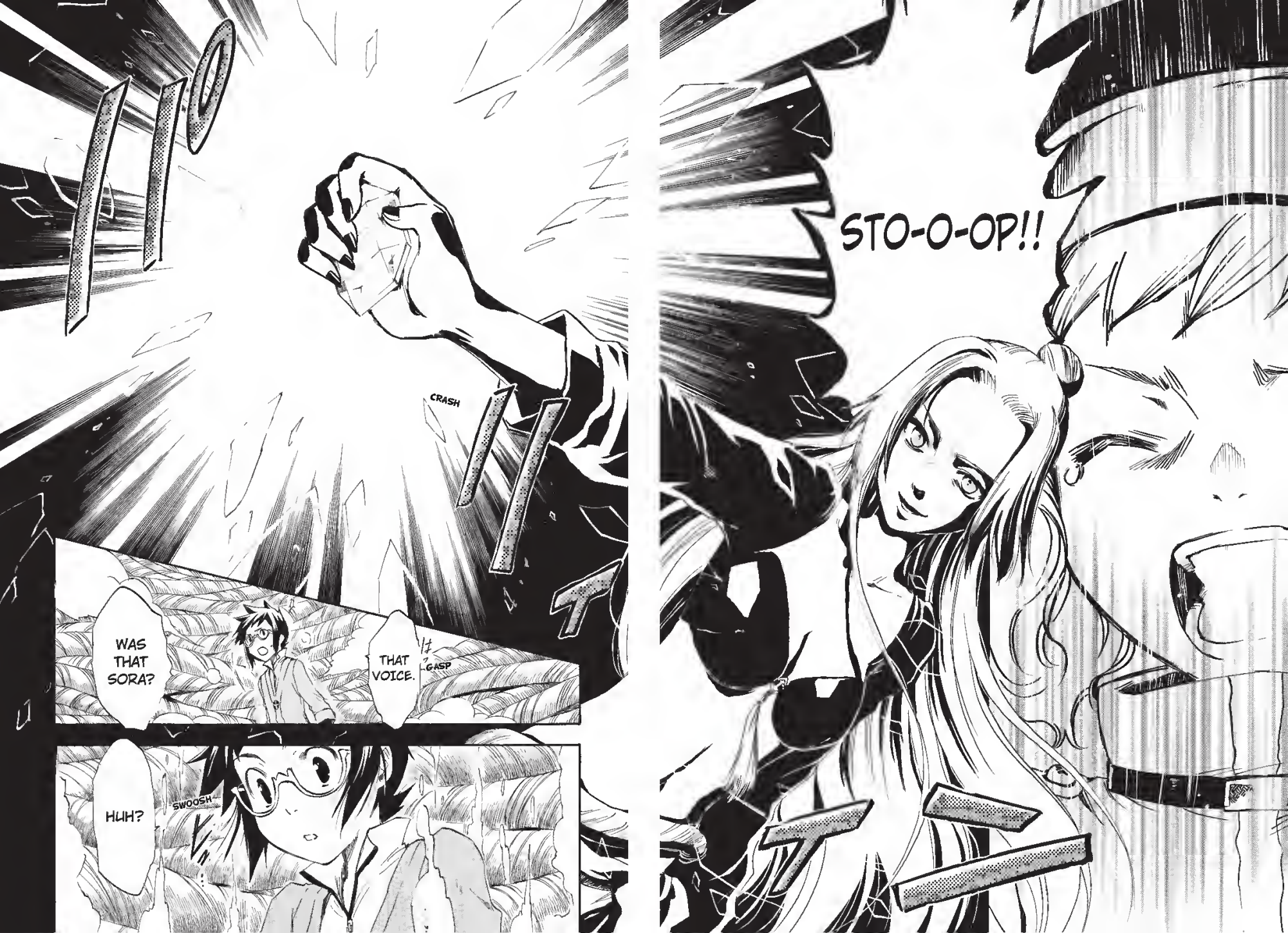
BLAME IT ON YOUR OWN INABILITY TO CONTROL THE INSIDE OF THIS TREE.

THOSE WHO CONTROL WATER...
...CONTROL THE WORLD.


WE CAN SEE IT NOW.
GASP
THERE.

THE CORE.
HEY!
IT'S SORA.
WHO'S THAT?
IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO FAR IF MEL AND MIL COULD WALK THERE.
DARN, I LOST SIGHT OF THEM.
IT'S AWFULLY HOT HERE.
V ... W
SILENCE
HAA
HAA

STUNNED
WHAT?
WHAT IS SHE DOING?
SHFF
STOP...
SQUEEZE
WHAT A NICE CORE.
SHFF
DON'T TAKE IT!
MY TREE...
...WILL DIE.
NO...
CRACK


CRASH
WAS THAT SORA?
THAT VOICE.
は？
GASP
HUH?
SWOOSH
STO-O-OP!!

EH?
VOOSH
HUH?
WHOO
WHAT? THERE'S BREEZE COMING FROM BELOW.
OOOSH
WAHHHHHHHHHH!
SWOSHHH
AHH!
AHHH!
WHOA!
FWOOSH
FWOOSH

MEL!
MIL!
VOOSH
WHAT?
VROOOOSHH
GIMMY?
AHHHHH!
GIMMY!!
SHH
I SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THEM BOTH...
HEH
VROOOSH

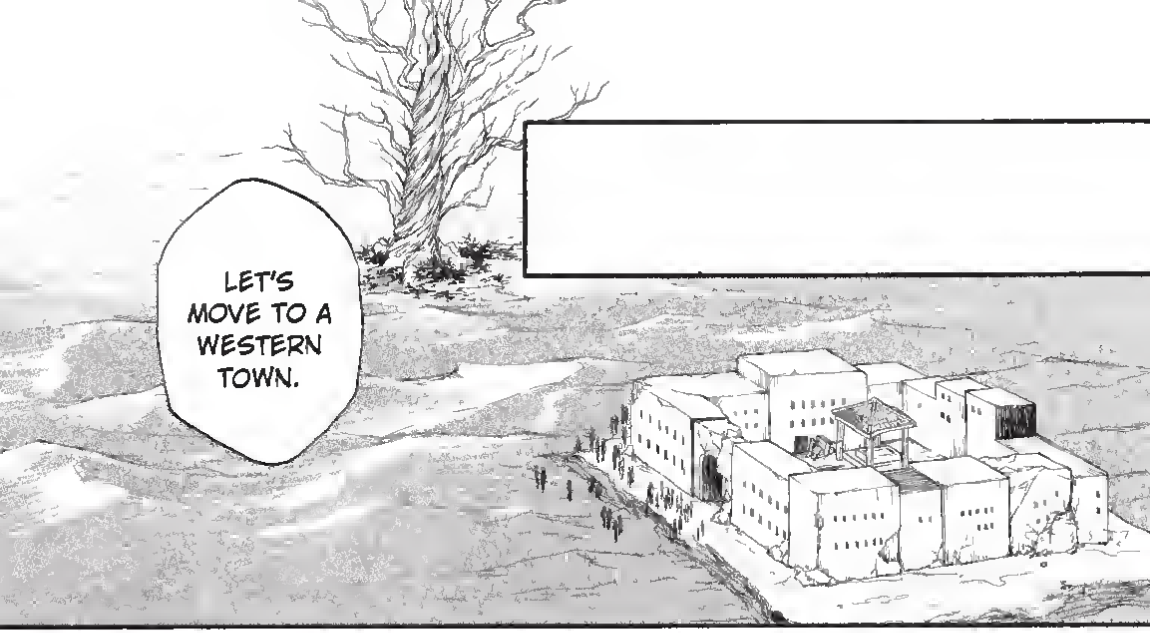
GASP
!
SWAY
FTOOM
...THE CORE AND ITS MASTER.
?!
HEY!
YOU!
GIMMY.
HE LOOKS INSANE.
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
HAA
HAA
BLAH
WHEN THE CAVITY OPENED, THE WARM AIR INSIDE GOT OUT, MAKING THE AIR CURRENT RISE.
BLAH
BLAH
LANDING
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

...LET GO OF SORA!
BUT FIRST...
VWOOSH
SMACK
!!
SHRUP
SHRUP
!
YOU BRAT!
IT'S THE NIMBUS SWITCH.

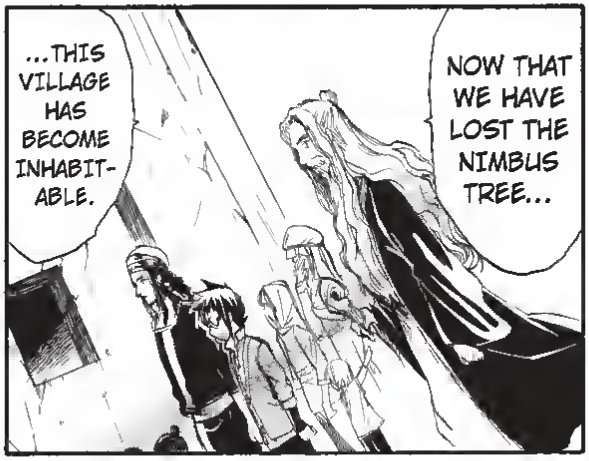
VOOSH
!!
PHEW
THERE!
SNATCH
SHROO
OOM
PFFHT
OH, NO!

WHOOOSH
SORA!
GOT IT!
SHH
POA
!
I DID IT!
44
FWOO
HEH!
HEH-HEH.
FWOO
FSHH
THIS TREE IS DOOMED ANYWAY.
DON'T LET IT DRAG YOU DOWN.
HEH.
HEH-HEH.
I DON'T NEED HER.
FWOO

オオオ
WHOOSH
WHOOOSH
THERE GOES MY TREE!


LET'S MOVE TO A WESTERN TOWN.

THOUGH IT GOT FLOODED...
...WE WERE FORTUNATE TO AVOID FATALITIES.


...THIS VILLAGE HAS BECOME INHABIT-ABLE.
NOW THAT WE HAVE LOST THE NIMBUS TREE...

NO!

I DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANOTHER VILLAGE.
NOT...
...AGAIN.
LOOK.
SOB
GIMMY...
?
...MY REASON FOR EXISTENCE ALONG WITH MY TREE.
SOB
SOB
SOB
HAA
I...
...HAVE LOST...

BECAUSE THE CORE IS GONE...
...THAT TREE WILL—
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?
SORA.
OH.
THAT'S EASY!
IT SEEMS THAT WAY.
DID THAT TREE GO BAD...
...BECAUSE IT LOST THAT SHINY THING?
JUST TAKE BACK THE SHINY THING!

YEAH.
THEY'RE RIGHT.

...AND EVERY-THING ELSE...
...THE VIL-LAGE...
THE TREE...
WE CAN TAKE THEM BACK!
CLENCH

to be continued...

Amefurashi Character Guide

Sora

She is a goddess in the nimbus tree who sends rain, but she looks and acts like a typical girl. Initially, my editor and I knocked around a strange plot with her as a mistress-type kid, but it got nixed (laughs). She ended up becoming a brat, but you can see that trait in her switch. Since I wanted to avoid a goddesslike appearance, I associated a keeper with a tree guardian before settling with a zoo animal trainer-type outfit like this. You can get a glimpse of my taste in her boots. Since the outfit isn't feminine, I hope I can change it frequently.

Mel and Mil

They are Gimmy's younger brother and sister. They are twins and always together. Though they appear to be obedient kids, they could be troublemakers. They wear hooded jackets to keep out sand.

Gimmy

Gimmy is a village boy who also runs a repair shop. Originally a side character in another storyboard created before this story, he became a main character, though being an inventor with glasses are his only remaining traits. I hope he will shine in crucial moments, even while under Sora's thumb.

Though the story is set in a desert, it is in another universe, although I chose a contemporary outfit for him. Well, glasses and cardigans are totally my taste. I'm sorry!

Daryl

He is Gimmy, Mel and Mil's guardian. He has a goatee and dreadlocks. He loves to travel. He loves liquor and girls, too. He could be a surprisingly easy character to manage, probably because of his straightforward personality.

Afterword

Hello and nice to meet you.
I'm Suzumi. A year after *Haridama: Magic Cram School* first appeared, I'm pleased to have a new manga, *Amefurashi* Volume 1, released by Kodansha Comics. Thank you to my editor, my assistants and helpers and my designer for your help!

I had an urge to create a fairy-tale type manga after *Haridama* with a boyish story . So my editor and I went over our favorite keywords, such as "desert," "glasses" and "a tough girl," and we came up with this story. It's been half a year since then–that was fast!

One thing I regret is that I have never been to a desert and I wish I had before I started this manga, though I know it's impossible since I'm drawing a series for another magazine (cries). I wonder what a land with only sand and rocks looks like. I want to go so badly! I'm working on the manga as I stare in anguish at reference books and pictures my friend took in the Middle East. I will go there someday!

As I deal with that agony, I will do my best with Sora and others, so please give us your support. Thank you for reading my manga!

Atsushi Suzumi

Staff & Help:
Chisa Mori, Suiren Matsukaze, Ichihara, Hana Hiratoki, Sekine, Inagi Kazamori

About the Creator

Hi! I'm a manga artist. I'm also an illustrator. I've been drawing since I was in kindergarten, but the first time I picked up a manga pen was in the fourth grade. The manga artists who inspire me are Akira Toriyama and Mutsumi Inomata.

People like to ask me what tools I use, but I'm pretty analog when it comes to drawing manga. I use G pens, maru pens and pilot ink. But when it comes to color illustrations, I go digital. I scan the inked illustrations and use Painter7 to color them.

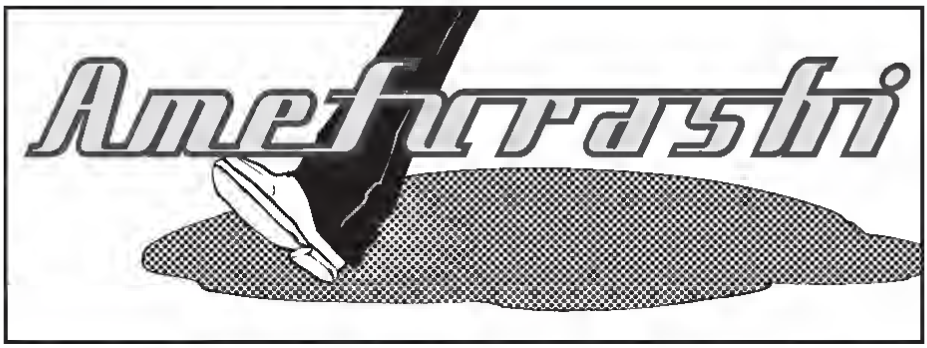
I still work hard every day to get better as an artist. There are so many things I can't draw!

Things I like:
Pictures, music, clothes, hats, walking
and poetry about the four seasons.
Profiles. One-piece dresses.
Winter–I love putting my scarf on!
Cats. Glasses (black-rimmed ones are the best!)
Dandy middle-aged men and old men characters.
Live music (punk, rock, etc.)
Café au lait. Cute packaging and makeup.
Elegant cafés and coffeehouses.

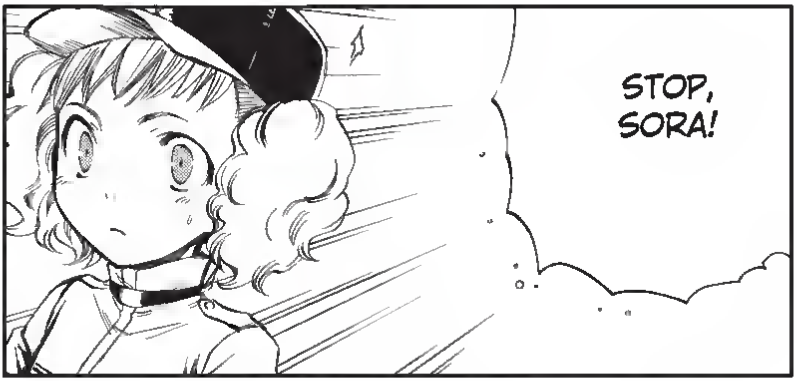
–Atsushi Suzumi

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.



Amefurashi
Amefurashi, literally translated, means, "the one that rains."



Sora
Literally translated, *sora* means, "sky" or "heaven."